

DELIBERAZIONE DELLA GIUNTA REGIONALE 30 novembre 2022, n. 1759

**“LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM. Presa d’atto”. - Variazione al bilancio di previsione 2022 e pluriennale 2022-2024, al Documento tecnico di accompagnamento ed al Bilancio finanziario gestionale 2022-2024, ai sensi dell’art. 51 comma 2 del D. Lgs. n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii.”. Autorizzazione missioni all’estero.**

L’Assessore al Paesaggio, avv. Anna Grazia Maraschio, sulla base dell’istruttoria espletata dal funzionario del Servizio Parchi e tutela della Biodiversità, avv. Valentina Rubini, confermata dalla Dirigente del Servizio e dal Dirigente della Sezione Tutela e Valorizzazione del Paesaggio, propone quanto segue.

**PREMESSO CHE:**

- il programma LIFE mira ad agevolare la transizione verso un’economia sostenibile, circolare, efficiente sotto il profilo energetico, basata sulle energie rinnovabili, climaticamente neutra e resiliente proteggere, ripristinare e migliorare la qualità dell’ambiente, compresi l’aria, l’acqua e il suolo arrestare e invertire la perdita di biodiversità contrastare il degrado degli ecosistemi. La dotazione finanziaria del programma LIFE è attuata attraverso quattro sottoprogrammi: natura e biodiversità, economia circolare e qualità della vita, adattamento ai cambiamenti climatici e mitigazione dei loro effetti transizione verso l’energia pulita. il programma sostiene dimostrazioni, buone pratiche, azioni di coordinamento e sostegno, sviluppo delle capacità e progetti di governance. Ciò comprende progetti strategici integrati e progetti strategici per la tutela della natura, che sostengono l’attuazione di piani ambientali e climatici, nonché programmi e strategie sviluppati a livello regionale, multiregionale o nazionale;
- la EU Biodiversity Strategy per il 2030 promuove il recupero della biodiversità degli ecosistemi naturali europei tramite estensione di reti di conservazione, prevenzione e riduzione degli impatti antropici, e ripristino del patrimonio naturale degradato. I Reef marini profondi sono habitat bentonici ecologicamente rilevanti che fungono da trappola per la CO2 e attraggono un’alta biodiversità di fauna associata. È sempre più urgente proteggere e ripristinare questi Reef profondi, date le diverse pressioni a cui sono attualmente sottoposti (per esempio il cambiamento climatico, la pesca e l’accumulo di spazzatura). Il Marine Litter può influenzare lo stato di salute di questi habitat causando una perdita di funzioni ecologiche ad essi associate;
- il progetto LIFE Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea (LIFE DREAM) fa parte del programma LIFE 2027 (2021-2027), Standard Action Project (SAP), sottoprogramma Nature & Biodiversity; esso mira a mitigare la pressione antropica sugli habitat profondi sensibili e a promuovere loro protezione, recupero e conservazione. Il progetto LIFE DREAM comprenderà interventi attivi per facilitare la rigenerazione dei Reef profondi e fornirà informazioni di supporto all’estensione della Rete Natura 2000 nelle zone di mare profondo integrando dati biologici sui Reef profondi e sui servizi ecosistemici che questi habitat forniscono, utilizzando dati spaziali sulle attività antropiche. Attività di ripristino attivo degli habitat (messa in posto di strutture artificiali che fungono da substrato per la crescita delle specie costruttrici di Reef profondi) saranno integrate con attività di ripristino passivo (rimozione del Marine Litter in corrispondenza dei Reef profondi). Il coinvolgimento di pescatori e stakeholder nelle attività di progetto ha lo scopo di migliorare l’impatto del progetto stesso a favorire un cambiamento del comportamento della società. Seguendo i principi di economia circolare, il progetto LIFE DREAM ambisce anche a recuperare e riciclare di materiali arrivati alla fine del loro ciclo di vita, convertendo il Marine Litter in biocarburante di seconda generazione in modo da ridurre le emissioni di CO2. I risultati del progetto rappresenteranno la baseline per estendere la Rete Natura 2000 alle aree profonde del Mar Mediterraneo e ripristinare habitat profondi sensibili fornendo best practices per il ripristino di Reef profondi e relativi costi-benefici;
- il Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) ha proposto (“Proposal”), in data 30.11.2021, alla Commissione Europea il progetto in oggetto;
- la Commissione Europea, con Invitation Letter- Ares(2022)3720037 - 17/05/2022, ha approvato il

- progetto avente il seguente CUP Master: B53C21001790006”;
- la Commissione Europea, con Invitation Letter- Ares(2022)3720037 - 17/05/2022, ha approvato il progetto;
  - il progetto, in data 2022.08.02, è stato oggetto della stipula di uno specifico accordo di sovvenzione (GRANT AGREEMENT, allegato A al presente provvedimento e sua parte integrante) tra Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), in qualità di beneficiario coordinatore, e la Commissione Europea - European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA);
  - in data 17.05.2022 il CNR ha comunicato a mezzo mail alla Regione Puglia l’approvazione del progetto da parte della Commissione Europea;
  - il progetto ha una durata pari a 60 mesi ed è stato ammesso a finanziamento per un importo complessivo di € 5.307.436,77, con un cofinanziamento della CE pari a pari al 60 % pari ad euro 3.184.462,00 e un cofinanziamento a carico dei soggetti proponenti pari al restante 40% di 2.122.974,77 euro;
  - il Progetto approvato prevede, oltre al beneficiario coordinatore, la partecipazione tecnica e finanziaria di altri soggetti denominati beneficiari associati, i quali contribuiscono alla realizzazione delle azioni del progetto, facendosi carico di una parte dei costi relativi (co-finanziamento): Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro; Hellenic Centre for Marine Research; Net European Consulting Srls; ENALEIA ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIREIA; Università Politecnica delle Marche; Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas; Università degli Studi Di Napoli Federico II; Regione Puglia; PERIFEREIAKO TAMEIO ANAPTYKSIS PERIFEREIAS THESSALIAS; STAZIONE ZOOLOGICA ANTON DOHRN; FEDERPESCA; Organizacion de Productores Pesqueros de Almeria; Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata.

#### RILEVATO CHE:

- la Regione Puglia-Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità regionale è responsabile, nell’ambito del progetto, delle seguenti azioni:
  - ✓ **WP1 Project management and coordination**
  - ✓ tasks 2.1 “Dissemination strategy” e 2.3 “Stakeholder involvement” del **WP2 Dissemination and communication ;**
  - ✓ task 4.3 “Designation/Update of N2K sites for DR” del **WP 4 Restoration and conservation;**
  - ✓ tasks 5.2 “Fishers involvement in a circular economy experimete 5.4 Management plans and regulated areas” del **WP5 Prevention and maintenance;**
  - ✓ task 6.2 “Monitoring of the socioeconomic impact” del **WP6 Monitoring and evaluation;**
  - ✓ task7.2 “Replicate the circular experiment” del **WP7 Sustainability, replicability and exploitation of project results;**
- lo staff di progetto, così come indicato nella proposta di progetto è costituito dai seguenti dipendenti incardinati nel Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità: Dirigente ing. Caterina Dibitonto, dipendenti dott.ssa Fiore Maria, dott. Grifoni Enrico, dott.ssa Rubini Valentina, dott.ssa Sgarra Concetta;
- su un costo totale relativo alle azioni in capo alla Regione Puglia di 37.708,94 euro, la Regione Puglia riceverà un finanziamento da parte della CE di euro 22.652,36. La differenza di euro 15.083,58 euro è il cofinanziamento a carico della Regione stessa con risorse in *kind*;
- le tranches di co-finanziamento sono suddivise secondo le seguenti modalità:
  - Prefinancing 1 (initial) = 6.787,61 euro
  - Prefinancing 2 = 5.656,34 euro
  - Prefinancing 3 = 5.656,34 euro
  - saldo= 4.552,07 euro.
- Con pec del 3.11.2022 la Sezione Bilancio e Ragioneria regionale ha comunicato che, con provvisorio di entrata n. 10040/2022, il Tesoriere Regionale ha richiesto l’emissione della reversale d’incasso relativa al sotto indicato accredito: Versante: Cons. Naz. Ricerche, Causale: TRASFERIMENTO FONDI FIRST TRANSFER OF 30 PERCENT PR LIFE21-NATIT-LIFE DREAM, Importo: € 6.787,61.

#### DATO ATTO CHE:

- il beneficiario coordinatore CNR e i partners di progetto su richiamati e di seguito indicati: Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro; Hellenic Centre for Marine Research; Net European Consulting Srls; ENALEIA ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIREIA; Università Politecnica delle Marche; Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas; Università degli Studi Di Napoli Federico II; Regione Puglia; PERIFEREIAKO TAMEIO ANAPTYKSIS PERIFEREIAS THESSALIAS; STAZIONE ZOOLOGICA ANTON DOHRN; FEDERPESCA; Organizacion de Productores Pesqueros de Almeria; Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata, devono sottoscrivere un accordo tra loro denominato “CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT”, allegato al presente provvedimento allegato B e sua parte integrante;
- il progetto prevede, tra le varie attività da realizzare, anche lo svolgimento di missioni all'estero che, allo stato, non consentono una programmazione delle missioni stesse dei dirigenti e dei dipendenti regionali coinvolti nel rispetto delle disposizioni di cui alla D.G.R. n. 1082 del 26 luglio 2002.

**VISTI:**

1. il D.lgs. 23 giugno 2011 n.118 come integrato dal D.lgs. 10 agosto 2018, n.126 “Disposizioni integrate e correttive del D.lgs.11872011 recante disposizioni in materia di armonizzazione dei sistemi contabili e degli schemi di bilancio delle Regioni, degli Enti Locali e dei loro organismi, a norma degli articoli 1 e 2 della L.42/2009;
2. l'art. 51 comma 2 del D.lgs. n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii., che prevede che la Giunta, con provvedimento amministrativo, autorizza le variazioni del documento tecnico di accompagnamento e le variazioni del bilancio di previsione;
3. la Legge Regionale n. 51 del 30/12/2021 “Disposizioni per la formazione del bilancio di previsione 2022 e bilancio pluriennale 2022-2024 della Regione Puglia (legge di stabilità regionale 2022)”;
4. la Legge Regionale n. 52 del 30/12/2021 “Bilancio di previsione della Regione Puglia per l'esercizio finanziario 2022 e bilancio pluriennale 2022-2024”;
5. la D.G.R. n. 2 del 20/01/2022 “Bilancio di previsione per l'esercizio finanziario 2022 e pluriennale 2022-2024. Articolo 39, comma 10, del decreto legislativo 23 giugno 2011, n. 118. Documento tecnico di accompagnamento e Bilancio Finanziario Gestionale. Approvazione”.

**TANTO PREMESSO**, si propone alla Giunta regionale di:

1. prendere atto dell'avvenuta approvazione e ammissione a finanziamento del progetto “LIFE Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea (LIFE DREAM) (come da Grant agreement, allegato al presente provvedimento e sua parte integrante), di cui il Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) è il Beneficiario coordinatore e la Regione Puglia è Beneficiario associato;
2. di prendere atto che le attività da porre in essere da parte della Regione Puglia, relative al progetto, sono le seguenti:
  - ✓ WP1 Project management and coordination
  - ✓ tasks 2.1 “Dissemination strategy” e 2.3 “Stakeholder involvement” del WP2 Dissemination and communication;
  - ✓ task 4.3 “Designation/Update of N2K sites for DR” del WP 4 Restoration and conservation;
  - ✓ tasks 5.2 “Fishers involvement in a circular economy experimete 5.4 Management plans and regulated areas” del WP5 Prevention and maintenance;
  - ✓ task 6.2 “Monitoring of the socioeconomic impact” del WP6 Monitoring and evaluation;
  - ✓ task7.2 “Replicate the circular experimete” del WP7 Sustainability, replicability and exploitation of project results;
3. di prendere atto che, su un costo totale di progetto di euro 37.708,94, **la Regione Puglia riceverà un finanziamento da parte della CE di euro 22.652,36, con un cofinanziamento a carico della Regione Puglia della differenza pari ad euro 15.083,58 con risorse in kind**;
4. di procedere alla istituzione di capitoli di Entrata e di Spesa, come specificatamente riportato nella sezione copertura finanziaria;
5. di apportare, ai sensi dell'art. 51, comma 2, punto a) del D. Lgs n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii., le variazioni al

Bilancio di Previsione 2022 e pluriennale 2022-2024, al Documento Tecnico di Accompagnamento ed al Bilancio Finanziario Gestionale 2022-2024, con l'iscrizione della somma di 22.652,36 euro nei Capitoli di Nuova Istituzione (C.N.I.), come specificatamente riportato nella sezione copertura finanziaria;

6. di autorizzare il dirigente del Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità, responsabile dei competenti capitoli di spesa istituiti con il presente atto, ad adottare i conseguenti provvedimenti di accertamento e di impegno e liquidazione delle spese;
7. di autorizzare in via preventiva il dirigente del Servizio parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità nonché i Dipendenti selezionati, in narrativa richiamati, nell'ambito del progetto e coinvolti nella gestione dello stesso, a recarsi per lo svolgimento di missioni all'estero strettamente connesse all'attuazione del citato progetto;
8. dare atto che, preliminarmente ad ogni missione, verrà trasmessa alla Segreteria della Giunta specifica comunicazione, da parte del Direttore del Dipartimento, con informazioni inerenti al personale interessato alla trasferta ed ai relativi dettagli;
9. di rinviare alle procedure definite nel Regolamento approvato con D.G.R. n. 746 del 26 aprile 2011 per le singole autorizzazioni di volta in volta necessarie a comporre la delegazione che parteciperà ai diversi incontri all'estero;
10. di dare atto che le spese per le missioni in argomento sono a totale carico delle risorse che finanziano il progetto;
11. di autorizzare il dirigente del Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità ad apportare le eventuali modifiche, a seguito di approvazione del presente provvedimento, al Consortium agreement, allegato B al presente provvedimento;
12. di demandare al dirigente del Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità la sottoscrizione del predetto Consortium agreement.

#### **Verifica ai sensi del D.Lgs. 196/2003 e del Regolamento (UE)2016/679**

##### **GARANZIE DI RISERVATEZZA**

“La pubblicazione sul BURP, nonché la pubblicazione all'Albo o sul sito istituzionale, salve le garanzie previste dalla legge 241/1990 in tema di accesso ai documenti amministrativi, avviene nel rispetto della tutela della riservatezza dei cittadini secondo quanto disposto dal Regolamento UE n. 679/2016 in materia di protezione dei dati personali, nonché dal D.Lgs. 196/2003 ss.mm.ii., ed ai sensi del vigente Regolamento regionale 5/2006 per il trattamento dei dati sensibili e giudiziari, in quanto applicabile. Ai fini della pubblicità legale, il presente provvedimento è stato redatto in modo da evitare la diffusione di dati personali identificativi non necessari ovvero il riferimento alle particolari categorie di dati previste dagli articoli 9 e 10 del succitato Regolamento UE”.

#### **COPERTURA FINANZIARIA AI SENSI DEL D. LGS. 118/2011 E SS.MM.**

Il presente provvedimento comporta l'istituzione di nuovi capitoli di entrata e di spesa e la variazione al bilancio di previsione 2022 e pluriennale 2022-2024, al documento tecnico di accompagnamento e al bilancio finanziario gestionale 2022-2024, approvato con DGR n. 2/2022, ai sensi dell'all'art. 51, comma 2, del d. lgs. n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii., come di seguito indicato:

##### **BILANCIO VINCOLATO**

CRA: 11.04 – Sezione Tutela e Valorizzazione del Paesaggio

##### **ISTITUZIONE NUOVI CAPITOLI**

##### **PARTE ENTRATA**

Entrata ricorrente

**CODICE UE: 1** - Entrate destinate al finanziamento dei progetti comunitari

CAPITOLO	DECLARATORIA	TITOLO TIPOLOGIA	P.D.C.F.
CNI (1) E_____	Trasferimenti per il Progetto "LIFE Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea (LIFE DREAM)	2.101	E.2.01.01.01.000 Trasferimenti correnti da amministrazioni centrali

**PARTE SPESA**

Spesa ricorrente

**CODICE UE: 4** – Trasferimenti statali correlati ai finanziamenti UE

CAPITOLO	DECLARATORIA	MISSIONE PROGRAMMA	P.D.C.F.
CNI (2) U_____	Progetto "LIFE Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea (LIFE DREAM) – Spese per organizzazione eventi, pubblicità e servizi per trasferta	19.02	U.1.03.02.02.000
CNI (3) U_____	Progetto "LIFE Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea (LIFE DREAM) – Spese per consulenze	19.02	U.1.03.02.10.000
CNI (4) U_____	Progetto "LIFE Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea (LIFE DREAM) – Spese per altri beni di consumo	19.02	U.1.03.01.02.000

**VARIAZIONE DI BILANCIO****PARTE ENTRATA**

CAPITOLO	DECLARATORIA	TITOLO TIPOLOGIA	P.D.C.F.	Variazione totale €	Variazione e.f. 2022 Competenza Cassa	Variazione e.f. 2023 Competenza	Variazione e.f. 2024 Competenza	Variazione e.f. 2025 Competenza (*)	Variazione e.f. 2026 Competenza (*)
CNI (1) E_____	Trasferimenti per il Progetto "LIFE Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea (LIFE DREAM)	2.101	E.2.01.01.01.000	+ 22.652,36	+ 6.787,61	+ 5.656,34	+ 5.656,34	+ 3.846,40	+ 705,67

Si attesta che l'importo relativo alla copertura del presente provvedimento corrisponde ad obbligazione giuridicamente perfezionata con debitore certo: **Commissione Europea per il tramite del CNR.**

Titolo giuridico che supporta il credito: **Grant agreement allegato sottoscritto in data 2022.08.02.**

Si attesta che l'importo di € 6.787,61 è stato incassato con provvisorio di entrata n. 10040/2022.

## PARTE SPESA

CAPITOLO	DECLARATORIA	MISSIONE PROGRAMMA	P.D.C.F.	Variazione totale €	Variazione e.f. 2022 Competenza Cassa	Variazione e.f. 2023 Competenza	Variazione e.f. 2024 Competenza	Variazione e.f. 2025 Competenza (*)	Variazione e.f. 2026 Competenza (*)
CNI (2) U_____	Progetto "LIFE Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea (LIFE DREAM) – Spese per organizzazione eventi, pubblicità e servizi per trasferta	19.02	U.1.03.02.02.000	+ 14.232,00	+ 3.587,13	+ 3.546,40	+ 3.546,40	+ 2.846,40	+ 705,67
CNI (3) U_____	Progetto "LIFE Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea (LIFE DREAM) – Spese per consulenze	19.02	U.1.03.02.10.000	+ 4.420,36	+ 2.200,48	+ 1.109,94	+ 1.109,94	0,00	0,00
CNI (4) U_____	Progetto "LIFE Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea (LIFE DREAM) – Spese per altri beni di consumo	19.02	U.1.03.01.02.000	+ 4.000,00	+ 1.000,00	+ 1.000,00	+ 1.000,00	+ 1.000,00	0,00
TOTALE				+ 22.652,36	+ 6.787,61	+ 5.656,34	+ 5.656,34	+ 3.846,40	+ 705,67

(\*) Si attesta che per le annualità successive al Bilancio di previsione corrente si provvederà con successivi stanziamenti sui bilanci di previsione futuri.

La variazione proposta con il presente provvedimento assicura il rispetto dei vincoli di finanza pubblica vigenti e gli equilibri di bilancio di cui al D.lgs. n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii..

La quota di cofinanziamento regionale pari ad euro 15.083,58 trova copertura completamente sul risorse in *kind* e non sono previste risorse in *cash* su stanziamenti del bilancio regionale.

L'Assessora relatrice, sulla base delle risultanze istruttorie come innanzi illustrate, ai sensi dell'art.44 comma

4 lettere a) nonché della L.R. 7/2004 e dell'art. 4 comma 4 - lettera K) della L.R. 7/1997, propone alla Giunta:

1. Di prendere atto e di approvare quanto esposto in narrativa che qui si intende integralmente riportato.
2. Di prendere atto dell'avvenuta approvazione e ammissione a finanziamento del progetto "LIFE Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea (LIFE DREAM) (come da Grant agreement, allegato al presente provvedimento e sua parte integrante), di cui il Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) è il Beneficiario coordinatore e la Regione Puglia è Beneficiario associato.
3. Di prendere atto che le attività da porre in essere da parte della Regione Puglia, relative al progetto, sono le seguenti:
  - ✓ WP1 Project management and coordination
  - ✓ tasks 2.1 "Dissemination strategy" e 2.3 "Stakeholder involvement" del WP2 Dissemination and communication ;
  - ✓ task 4.3 "Designation/Update of N2K sites for DR" del WP 4 Restoration and conservation;
  - ✓ tasks 5.2 "Fishers involvement in a circular economy esperimente 5.4 Management plans and regulated areas" del WP5 Prevention and maintenance;
  - ✓ task 6.2 "Monitoring of the socioeconomic impact" del WP6 Monitoring and evaluation;
  - ✓ task7.2 "Replicate the circular experiment" del WP7 Sustainability, replicability and exploitation of project results.
4. Di prendere atto che, su un costo totale di progetto di euro 37.708,94, la Regione Puglia riceverà un finanziamento da parte della CE di euro 22.652,36, con un cofinanziamento a carico della Regione Puglia della differenza pari ad euro 15.083,58 con risorse in *kind*.
5. Di procedere alla istituzione di capitoli di Entrata e di Spesa, come specificatamente riportato nella sezione copertura finanziaria.
6. Di apportare, ai sensi dell'art. 51, comma 2, punto a) del D. Lgs n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii., le variazioni al Bilancio di Previsione 2022 e pluriennale 2022-2024, al Documento Tecnico di Accompagnamento ed al Bilancio Finanziario Gestionale 2022-2024, con l'iscrizione della somma di 22.652,36 euro nei Capitoli di Nuova Istituzione (C.N.I.), come specificatamente riportato nella sezione copertura finanziaria.
7. Di autorizzare il dirigente del Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità della Sezione Tutela e Valorizzazione del Paesaggio, responsabile dei competenti capitoli di spesa istituiti con il presente atto, ad adottare i conseguenti provvedimenti di accertamento e di impegno e liquidazione delle spese.
8. Di autorizzare in via preventiva il dirigente del Servizio parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità nonché i Dipendenti selezionati, in narrativa richiamati, nell'ambito del progetto e coinvolti nella gestione dello stesso, a recarsi per lo svolgimento di missioni all'estero strettamente connesse all'attuazione del citato progetto.
9. Di dare atto che, preliminarmente ad ogni missione, verrà trasmessa alla Segreteria della Giunta specifica comunicazione, da parte del Direttore del Dipartimento, con informazioni inerenti al personale interessato alla trasferta ed ai relativi dettagli.
10. Di rinviare alle procedure definite nel Regolamento approvato con D.G.R. n. 746 del 26 aprile 2011 per le singole autorizzazioni di volta in volta necessarie a comporre la delegazione che parteciperà ai diversi incontri all'estero.
11. Di dare atto che le spese per le missioni in argomento sono a totale carico delle risorse che finanziano il progetto.
12. Di approvare l'allegato "E/1", parte integrante del presente provvedimento, che sarà trasmesso dalla Sezione Bilancio e Ragioneria alla Tesoreria regionale, conseguentemente all'approvazione della presente deliberazione.
13. Di dare atto che le operazioni contabili derivanti dal presente provvedimento assicurano il rispetto dei vincoli di finanza pubblica vigenti e gli equilibri di bilancio di cui al D.lgs. n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii.
14. Di autorizzare il dirigente del Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità ad apportare le eventuali modifiche, a seguito di approvazione del presente provvedimento, al Consortium agreement, allegato B al presente provvedimento.

15. Di demandare al dirigente del Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità la sottoscrizione del predetto Consortium agreement.
16. Di demandare al Segretariato Generale della Giunta Regionale la pubblicazione sul B.U.R.P. del presente Provvedimento.

I sottoscritti attestano che il procedimento istruttorio loro affidato è stato espletato nel rispetto della vigente normativa regionale, nazionale e comunitaria e che il presente schema di provvedimento, dagli stessi predisposto ai fini dell'adozione dell'atto finale da parte della Giunta Regionale, è conforme alle risultanze istruttorie.

Il Funzionario  
(avv. Rubini Valentina)

Il Funzionario  
(arch. Grifoni Enrico)

La Dirigente  
Servizio Parchi e tutela della biodiversità  
(ing. Caterina Dibitonto)

Il Dirigente Sezione  
Tutela e Valorizzazione del Paesaggio  
(arch. Vincenzo Lasorella)

Il Direttore, ai sensi dell'art. 18, comma 1, Decreto del Presidente della Giunta regionale 22 gennaio 2021, n. 22, NON RAVVISA la necessità di esprimere osservazioni alla presente proposta di DGR.

Il Direttore Dipartimento  
Ambiente, Paesaggio e Qualità Urbana  
(ing. Paolo Francesco Garofoli)

L'Assessora proponente:  
(Avv. Anna Grazia MARASCHIO)

## LA GIUNTA

**UDITA** la relazione istruttoria e la conseguente proposta dell'Assessora al Paesaggio;

**VISTE** le sottoscrizioni poste in calce alla proposta di deliberazione;

**A VOTI** unanimi espressi nei modi di legge;

**DELIBERA**

per le motivazioni espresse in narrativa che qui si intendono integralmente riportate:

1. Di prendere atto e di approvare quanto esposto in narrativa che qui si intende integralmente riportato.
2. Di prendere atto dell'avvenuta approvazione e ammissione a finanziamento del progetto "LIFE Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea (LIFE DREAM) (come da Grant agreement, allegato al presente provvedimento e sua parte integrante), di cui il Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) è il Beneficiario coordinatore e la Regione Puglia è Beneficiario associato.
3. Di prendere atto che le attività da porre in essere da parte della Regione Puglia, relative al progetto, sono le seguenti:
  - ✓ WP1 Project management and coordination
  - ✓ tasks 2.1 "Dissemination strategy" e 2.3 "Stakeholder involvement" del WP2 Dissemination and communication ;
  - ✓ task 4.3 "Designation/Update of N2K sites for DR" del WP 4 Restoration and conservation;
  - ✓ tasks 5.2 "Fishers involvement in a circular economy esperimente 5.4 Management plans and regulated areas" del WP5 Prevention and maintenance;
  - ✓ task 6.2 "Monitoring of the socioeconomic impact" del WP6 Monitoring and evaluation;
  - ✓ task7.2 "Replicate the circular experiment" del WP7 Sustainability, replicability and exploitation of project results.
4. Di prendere atto che, su un costo totale di progetto di euro 37.708,94, la Regione Puglia riceverà un finanziamento da parte della CE di euro 22.652,36, con un cofinanziamento a carico della Regione Puglia della differenza pari ad euro 15.083,58 con risorse in *kind*.
5. Di procedere alla istituzione di capitoli di Entrata e di Spesa, come specificatamente riportato nella sezione copertura finanziaria.
6. Di apportare, ai sensi dell'art. 51, comma 2, punto a) del D. Lgs n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii., le variazioni al Bilancio di Previsione 2022 e pluriennale 2022-2024, al Documento Tecnico di Accompagnamento ed al Bilancio Finanziario Gestionale 2022-2024, con l'iscrizione della somma di 22.652,36 euro nei Capitoli di Nuova Istituzione (C.N.I.), come specificatamente riportato nella sezione copertura finanziaria.
7. Di autorizzare il dirigente del Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità della Sezione Tutela e Valorizzazione del Paesaggio, responsabile dei competenti capitoli di spesa istituiti con il presente atto, ad adottare i conseguenti provvedimenti di accertamento e di impegno e liquidazione delle spese.
8. Di autorizzare in via preventiva il dirigente del Servizio parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità nonché i Dipendenti selezionati, in narrativa richiamati, nell'ambito del progetto e coinvolti nella gestione dello stesso, a recarsi per lo svolgimento di missioni all'estero strettamente connesse all'attuazione del citato progetto.
9. Di dare atto che, preliminarmente ad ogni missione, verrà trasmessa alla Segreteria della Giunta specifica comunicazione, da parte del Direttore del Dipartimento, con informazioni inerenti al personale interessato alla trasferta ed ai relativi dettagli.
10. Di rinviare alle procedure definite nel Regolamento approvato con D.G.R. n. 746 del 26 aprile 2011 per le singole autorizzazioni di volta in volta necessarie a comporre la delegazione che parteciperà ai diversi incontri all'estero.
11. Di dare atto che le spese per le missioni in argomento sono a totale carico delle risorse che finanziano il progetto.
12. Di approvare l'allegato "E/1", parte integrante del presente provvedimento, che sarà trasmesso dalla Sezione Bilancio e Ragioneria alla Tesoreria regionale, conseguentemente all'approvazione della presente deliberazione.
13. Di dare atto che le operazioni contabili derivanti dal presente provvedimento assicurano il rispetto dei vincoli di finanza pubblica vigenti e gli equilibri di bilancio di cui al D.lgs. n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii.
14. Di autorizzare il dirigente del Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità ad apportare le eventuali modifiche,

a seguito di approvazione del presente provvedimento, al Consortium agreement, allegato B al presente provvedimento.

15. Di demandare al dirigente del Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità la sottoscrizione del predetto Consortium agreement.
16. Di demandare al Segretariato Generale della Giunta Regionale la pubblicazione sul B.U.R.P. del presente Provvedimento.

**Il Segretario generale della Giunta**

ANNA LOBOSCO

**Il Presidente della Giunta**

RAFFAELE PIEMONTESE

Project: 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022



## EUROPEAN CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)

CINEA.D – Natural resources, climate, sustainable blue economy and clean energy  
D.2 – LIFE Environment (Nature & Circular Economy)

Caterina Dibitonto  
18.11.2022 10:29:54  
GMT+01:00

Caterina Dibitonto  
18.11.2022 10:29:54  
GMT+01:00

Vincenzo Latorre  
21.11.2022  
13:59:56  
GMT+00:00

### GRANT AGREEMENT

#### Project 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM

#### PREAMBLE

This **Agreement** ('the Agreement') is **between** the following parties:

##### **on the one part,**

the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and**

##### **on the other part,**

1. 'the coordinator':

**CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE (CNR)**, PIC 999979500, established in PIAZZALE ALDO MORO 7, ROMA 00185, Italy,

and the following other beneficiaries, if they sign their 'accession form' (see Annex 3 and Article 40):

2. **UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI BARI ALDO MORO (UNIBA)**, PIC 999840596, established in PIAZZA UMBERTO I 1, BARI 70121, Italy,

3. **HELLENIC CENTRE FOR MARINE RESEARCH (HCMR)**, PIC 999577532, established in LEOFOROS ATHENS SOUNIO 46 7KM, ATTIKIA ANAVISSOS 19013, Greece,

4. **NET EUROPEAN CONSULTING SRLS (NetEC)**, PIC 897662154, established in VIA DI DONNA OLIMPIA 6, ROMA 00152, Italy,

5. **ENALEIA ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIREIA (ENALEIA AMKE)**, PIC 901798622, established in PATRIARCHOU IOARKEIM 81, PIRAEUS 185 38, Greece,

6. **UNIVERSITA POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE (UNIVPM)**, PIC 999866689, established in PIAZZA ROMA 22, ANCONA 60121, Italy,

7. **AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS (CSIC)**, PIC 999991722, established in CALLE SERRANO 117, MADRID 28006, Spain,

8. **UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II (UNINA)**, PIC 999976590, established in CORSO UMBERTO I, 40, NAPOLI 80138, Italy,

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9. **REGIONE PUGLIA (REGIONE PUGLIA)**, PIC 999523503, established in VIA GENTILE 52, BARI 70126, Italy,

10. **PERIFEREIAKO TAMEIO ANAPTYKSIS PERIFEREIAS THESSALIAS (RoT)**, PIC 892749104, established in KOUMOUNDOUROU KAI PAPANASTASIOU, LARISSA 41110, Greece,

11. **STAZIONE ZOOLOGICA ANTON DOHRN (SZN)**, PIC 999468310, established in Villa Comunale, NAPOLI 80121, Italy,

12. **FEDERAZIONE NAZIONALE DELLA IMPRESE DI PESCA (FEDERPESCA)**, PIC 920378293, established in CORSO D'ITALIA, 92, ROMA 00198, Italy,

Unless otherwise specified, references to ‘beneficiary’ or ‘beneficiaries’ include the coordinator and affiliated entities (if any).

If only one beneficiary signs the grant agreement (‘mono-beneficiary grant’), all provisions referring to the ‘coordinator’ or the ‘beneficiaries’ will be considered — mutatis mutandis — as referring to the beneficiary.

The parties referred to above have agreed to enter into the Agreement.

By signing the Agreement and the accession forms, the beneficiaries accept the grant and agree to implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

The Agreement is composed of:

Preamble

Terms and Conditions (including Data Sheet)

Annex 1 Description of the action<sup>1</sup>

Annex 2 Estimated budget for the action

Annex 2a Additional information on unit costs and contributions (if applicable)

Annex 3 Accession forms (if applicable)<sup>2</sup>

Annex 3a Declaration on joint and several liability of affiliated entities (if applicable)<sup>3</sup>

Annex 4 Model for the financial statements

Annex 5 Specific rules (if applicable)

<sup>1</sup> Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

<sup>2</sup> Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

<sup>3</sup> Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

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## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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## DATA SHEET

### 1. General data

Project summary:

Project summary
<p>The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 promotes the recovery of the biodiversity of European natural ecosystems through extending conservation networks, preventing and reducing anthropic impacts, and restoring the degraded natural heritage. Marine Deep Reefs (DR) are ecologically relevant benthic habitats acting as CO<sub>2</sub> sinks and attracting a highly diverse associated fauna. The multiple pressures DR are currently facing (e.g., climate change, fishery and littering) make the need to protect and restore these habitats more urgent. Marine Litter (ML) can affect the health status of DR, leading to the loss of associated ecological functions. Through an innovative, sustainable approach, the LIFE DREAM Project aims at mitigating the anthropic pressure on deep sensitive habitats (DR) and promoting their protection, recovery and preservation. LIFE DREAM will comprise active intervention to aid the regeneration of DR and will provide supporting information to extend the Natura 2000 network to the deep-sea by integrating biological data on DR and ecosystems services they supply with spatial data on human activities. Active restoration (deployment of artificial structure as substrate for DR the forming-species growth) will be integrated with passive restoration activities (ML removal in correspondence of DR). The involvement of fishers and stakeholders within LIFE DREAM activities intends to enhance the impact of the project and boost a social behavior change. Following the principles of the circular economy, among the ambitions of the Project is pairing the recovery with recycling of materials at the end of their lifecycle, converting the recovered ML in 2nd generation fuel that will reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The results of LIFE DREAM would represent the baseline to extend the Natura 2000 network to the deep Mediterranean Sea and to restore deep sensitive habitats by providing best practices for DR restoration and the related costs and benefits.</p>

Keywords:

- Areas of intervention: Space for Nature
- EU Birds and Habitats Directives
- EU Bio. Strat. 2030 – coherent network of protected areas
- EU Bio. Strat. 2030 - restoring marine ecosystems
- MARINE HABITATS

Project number: 101074547

Project name: Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea

Project acronym: LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM

Call: LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

Topic: LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-NATURE

Type of action: LIFE Project Grants

Granting authority: European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency

Grant managed through EU Funding &amp; Tenders Portal: Yes (eGrants)

Project starting date: first day of the month following the entry into force date

Project end date: starting date + months of duration

Project duration: 60 months

Consortium agreement: Yes

### 2. Participants

List of participants:

N°	Role	Short name	Legal name	Ctry	PIC	Total eligible costs (BEN and AE)	Max grant amount
1	COO	CNR	CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE	IT	999979500	1 140 739.84	684 443.90

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N°	Role	Short name	Legal name	Ctry	PIC	Total eligible costs (BEN and AE)	Max grant amount
2	BEN	UNIBA	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI BARI ALDO MORO	IT	999840596	584 796.73	350 878.03
3	BEN	HCMR	HELLENIC CENTRE FOR MARINE RESEARCH	EL	999577532	488 779.21	293 267.52
4	BEN	NetEC	NET EUROPEAN CONSULTING SRLS	IT	897662154	200 785.50	120 471.30
5	BEN	ENALEIA AMKE	ENALEIA ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIREIA	EL	901798622	294 980.57	176 988.34
6	BEN	UNIVPM	UNIVERSITA POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE	IT	999866689	525 650.34	315 390.19
7	BEN	CSIC	AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS	ES	999991722	678 436.47	407 061.88
8	BEN	UNINA	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II	IT	999976590	212 201.33	127 320.79
9	BEN	REGIONE PUGLIA	REGIONE PUGLIA	IT	999523503	37 708.94	22 625.36
10	BEN	RoT	PERIFEREIAKO TAMEIO ANAPTYKSIS PERIFEREIAS THESSALIAS	EL	892749104	181 855.06	109 113.03
11	BEN	SZN	STAZIONE ZOOLOGICA ANTON DOHRN	IT	999468310	658 574.30	395 144.58
12	BEN	FEDERPESCA	FEDERAZIONE NAZIONALE DELLA IMPRESE DI PESCA	IT	920378293	302 928.48	181 757.08
13	AP	OPP71	Organizacion de Productores Pesqueros de Almeria	ES	888517673	0.00	0.00
14	AP	UNIRO	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA TOR VERGATA	IT	999844864	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>						5 307 436.77	3 184 462.00

**Coordinator:**

- CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE (CNR)

**3. Grant****Maximum grant amount, total estimated eligible costs and contributions and funding rate:**

Total eligible costs (BEN and AE)	Funding rate (%)	Maximum grant amount (Annex 2)	Maximum grant amount (award decision)
5 307 436.77	60	3 184 462.00	3 184 462.00

**Grant form:** Budget-based**Grant mode:** Action grant**Budget categories/activity types:**

- A. Personnel costs
  - A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons
  - A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries
  - A.5 Volunteers
- B. Subcontracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
  - C.1 Travel and subsistence
  - C.2 Equipment
  - C.3 Other goods, works and services
- D. Other cost categories
  - D.1 Financial support to third parties
  - D.2 Land purchase

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- E. Indirect costs

**Cost eligibility options:**

- Standard supplementary payments
- Limitation for subcontracting
- Travel and subsistence:
  - Travel: Actual costs
  - Accommodation: Actual costs
  - Subsistence: Actual costs
- Equipment: full costs and depreciation for listed equipment
- Costs for providing financial support to third parties (actual cost; max amount for each recipient: EUR 20 000.00)
- Indirect cost flat-rate: 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any)
- VAT: Yes
- Other ineligible costs

**Budget flexibility:** Yes (no flexibility cap)

**4. Reporting, payments and recoveries**

**4.1 Continuous reporting** (art 21)

**Deliverables:** see Funding & Tenders Portal Continuous Reporting tool

**4.2 Periodic reporting and payments**

**Reporting and payment schedule** (art 21, 22):

Reporting					Payments	
Reporting periods			Type	Deadline	Type	Deadline (time to pay)
RP No	Month from	Month to				
					Initial prefinancing	30 days from entry into force/ financial guarantee (if required) – whichever is the latest
1	1	18	Additional prefinancing report	60 days after end of reporting period	Additional prefinancing	60 days from receiving additional prefinancing report/ financial guarantee (if required) – whichever is the latest
2	19	36	Additional prefinancing report	60 days after end of reporting period	Additional prefinancing	60 days from receiving additional prefinancing report/ financial guarantee (if required) – whichever is the latest

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Reporting				Payments		
Reporting periods			Type	Deadline	Type	Deadline (time to pay)
RP No	Month from	Month to				
3	37	60	Periodic report	60 days after end of reporting period	Final payment	90 days from receiving periodic report

**Prefinancing payments and guarantees:**

Prefinancing payment		Prefinancing guarantee		
Type	Amount	Guarantee amount	Division per participant	
Prefinancing 1 (initial)	955 338.60	n/a	1 - CNR	n/a
			2 - UNIBA	n/a
			3 - HCMR	n/a
			4 - NetEC	n/a
			5 - ENALEIA AMKE	n/a
			6 - UNIVPM	n/a
			7 - CSIC	n/a
			8 - UNINA	n/a
			9 - REGIONE PUGLIA	n/a
			10 - RoT	n/a
			11 - SZN	n/a
			12 - FEDERPESCA	n/a
Prefinancing 2 (additional)	796 115.50	n/a	1 - CNR	n/a
			2 - UNIBA	n/a
			3 - HCMR	n/a
			4 - NetEC	n/a
			5 - ENALEIA AMKE	n/a
			6 - UNIVPM	n/a
			7 - CSIC	n/a
			8 - UNINA	n/a
			9 - REGIONE PUGLIA	n/a
			10 - RoT	n/a
			11 - SZN	n/a
			12 - FEDERPESCA	n/a
Prefinancing 3 (additional)	796 115.50	n/a	1 - CNR	n/a
			2 - UNIBA	n/a
			3 - HCMR	n/a
			4 - NetEC	n/a
			5 - ENALEIA AMKE	n/a
			6 - UNIVPM	n/a
			7 - CSIC	n/a
			8 - UNINA	n/a
			9 - REGIONE PUGLIA	n/a
			10 - RoT	n/a
			11 - SZN	n/a

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Prefinancing payment		Prefinancing guarantee		
Type	Amount	Guarantee amount	Division per participant	
			12 - FEDERPEECA	n/a

**Reporting and payment modalities (art 21, 22):**

Mutual Insurance Mechanism (MIM): No

Restrictions on distribution of initial prefinancing: The prefinancing may be distributed only if the minimum number of beneficiaries set out in the call conditions (if any) have acceded to the Agreement and only to beneficiaries that have acceded.

Interim payment ceiling (if any): 90% of the maximum grant amount

No-profit rule: Yes

Late payment interest: ECB + 3.5%

Bank account for payments:

IT75N0100503392000000218150

Conversion into euros: Double conversion

Reporting language: Language of the Agreement

**4.3 Certificates (art 24):**

Certificates on the financial statements (CFS):

Conditions:

Schedule: interim/final payment, if threshold is reached

Standard threshold (beneficiary-level):

- financial statement: requested EU contribution to costs  $\geq$  EUR 500 000.00

**4.4 Recoveries (art 22)**

**First-line liability for recoveries:**

Beneficiary termination: Beneficiary concerned

Final payment: Coordinator

After final payment: Beneficiary concerned

**Joint and several liability for enforced recoveries (in case of non-payment):**

Limited joint and several liability of other beneficiaries — up to the maximum grant amount of the beneficiary

Joint and several liability of affiliated entities — n/a

**5. Consequences of non-compliance, applicable law & dispute settlement forum**

**Applicable law (art 43):**

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Standard applicable law regime: EU law + law of Belgium

**Dispute settlement forum** (art 43):

Standard dispute settlement forum:

EU beneficiaries: EU General Court + EU Court of Justice (on appeal)

Non-EU beneficiaries: Courts of Brussels, Belgium (unless an international agreement provides for the enforceability of EU court judgements)

**6. Other**

**Specific rules (Annex 5):** Yes

**Standard time-limits after project end:**

Confidentiality (for X years after final payment): 5

Record-keeping (for X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Reviews (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Audits (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Extension of findings from other grants to this grant (no later than X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Impact evaluation (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

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## **CHAPTER 1 — GENERAL**

### **ARTICLE 1 — SUBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT**

This Agreement sets out the rights and obligations and terms and conditions applicable to the grant awarded for the implementation of the action set out in Chapter 2.

### **ARTICLE 2 — DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this Agreement, the following definitions apply:

Actions — The project which is being funded in the context of this Agreement.

Grant — The grant awarded in the context of this Agreement.

EU grants — Grants awarded by EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies (including EU executive agencies, EU regulatory agencies, EDA, joint undertakings, etc.).

Participants — Entities participating in the action as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties.

Beneficiaries (BEN) — The signatories of this Agreement (either directly or through an accession form).

Affiliated entities (AE) — Entities affiliated to a beneficiary within the meaning of Article 187 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046<sup>4</sup> which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries (obligation to implement action tasks and right to charge costs and claim contributions).

Associated partners (AP) — Entities which participate in the action, but without the right to charge costs or claim contributions.

Purchases — Contracts for goods, works or services needed to carry out the action (e.g. equipment, consumables and supplies) but which are not part of the action tasks (see Annex 1).

Subcontracting — Contracts for goods, works or services that are part of the action tasks (see Annex 1).

In-kind contributions — In-kind contributions within the meaning of Article 2(36) of EU Financial

<sup>4</sup> For the definition, see Article 187 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1): “**affiliated entities** [are]:

- (a) entities that form a sole beneficiary [(i.e. where an entity is formed of several entities that satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant, including where the entity is specifically established for the purpose of implementing an action to be financed by a grant)];
- (b) entities that satisfy the eligibility criteria and that do not fall within one of the situations referred to in Article 136(1) and 141(1) and that have a link with the beneficiary, in particular a legal or capital link, which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation”.

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Regulation 2018/1046, i.e. non-financial resources made available free of charge by third parties.

Fraud — Fraud within the meaning of Article 3 of EU Directive 2017/1371<sup>5</sup> and Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995<sup>6</sup>, as well as any other wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain.

Irregularities — Any type of breach (regulatory or contractual) which could impact the EU financial interests, including irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation 2988/95<sup>7</sup>.

Grave professional misconduct — Any type of unacceptable or improper behaviour in exercising one's profession, especially by employees, including grave professional misconduct within the meaning of Article 136(1)(c) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

Applicable EU, international and national law — Any legal acts or other (binding or non-binding) rules and guidance in the area concerned.

Portal — EU Funding & Tenders Portal; electronic portal and exchange system managed by the European Commission and used by itself and other EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies for the management of their funding programmes (grants, procurements, prizes, etc.).

## **CHAPTER 2 ACTION**

### **ARTICLE 3 — ACTION**

The grant is awarded for the action **101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM** ('action'), as described in Annex 1.

### **ARTICLE 4 — DURATION AND STARTING DATE**

The duration and the starting date of the action are set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 1).

## **CHAPTER 3 GRANT**

### **ARTICLE 5 — GRANT**

#### **5.1 Form of grant**

<sup>5</sup> Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law (OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 29).

<sup>6</sup> OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 48.

<sup>7</sup> Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

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The grant is an action grant<sup>8</sup> which takes the form of a budget-based mixed actual cost grant (i.e. a grant based on actual costs incurred, but which may also include other forms of funding, such as unit costs or contributions, flat-rate costs or contributions, lump sum costs or contributions or financing not linked to costs).

## 5.2 Maximum grant amount

The maximum grant amount is set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 3) and in the estimated budget (Annex 2).

## 5.3 Funding rate

The funding rate for costs is 60% of the action's eligible costs.

Contributions are not subject to any funding rate.

## 5.4 Estimated budget, budget categories and forms of funding

The estimated budget for the action is set out in Annex 2.

It contains the estimated eligible costs and contributions for the action, broken down by participant and budget category.

Annex 2 also shows the types of costs and contributions (forms of funding)<sup>9</sup> to be used for each budget category.

If unit costs or contributions are used, the details on the calculation will be explained in Annex 2a.

## 5.5 Budget flexibility

The budget breakdown may be adjusted — without an amendment (see Article 39) — by transfers (between participants and budget categories), as long as this does not imply any substantive or important change to the description of the action in Annex 1.

However:

- changes to the budget category for volunteers (if used) always require an amendment
- changes to budget categories with lump sums costs or contributions (if used; including financing not linked to costs) always require an amendment
- changes to budget categories with higher funding rates or budget ceilings (if used) always require an amendment
- addition of amounts for subcontracts not provided for in Annex 1 either require an amendment or simplified approval in accordance with Article 6.2

<sup>8</sup> For the definition, see Article 180(2)(a) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: 'action grant' means an EU grant to finance "an action intended to help achieve a Union policy objective".

<sup>9</sup> See Article 125 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

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- other changes require an amendment or simplified approval, if specifically provided for in Article 6.2
- flexibility caps: not applicable.

## **ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

In order to be eligible, costs and contributions must meet the **eligibility** conditions set out in this Article.

### **6.1 General eligibility conditions**

The **general eligibility conditions** are the following:

- (a) for actual costs:
  - (i) they must be actually incurred by the beneficiary
  - (ii) they must be incurred in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards; see Article 21)
  - (iii) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
  - (iv) they must be incurred in connection with the action as described in Annex 1 and necessary for its implementation
  - (v) they must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular recorded in the beneficiary's accounts in accordance with the accounting standards applicable in the country where the beneficiary is established and with the beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices
  - (vi) they must comply with the applicable national law on taxes, labour and social security and
  - (vii) they must be reasonable, justified and must comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency
- (b) for unit costs or contributions (if any):
  - (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
  - (ii) the units must:
    - be actually used or produced by the beneficiary in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of units relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be used or produced afterwards; see Article 21)
    - be necessary for the implementation of the action and
  - (iii) the number of units must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular supported by records and documentation (see Article 20)

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- (c) for flat-rate costs or contributions (if any):
- (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
  - (ii) the costs or contributions to which the flat-rate is applied must:
    - be eligible
    - relate to the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs or contributions relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards; see Article 21)
- (d) for lump sum costs or contributions (if any):
- (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
  - (ii) the work must be properly implemented by the beneficiary in accordance with Annex 1
  - (iii) the deliverables/outputs must be achieved in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of deliverables/outputs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be achieved afterwards; see Article 21)
- (e) for unit, flat-rate or lump sum costs or contributions according to usual cost accounting practices (if any):
- (i) they must fulfil the general eligibility conditions for the type of cost concerned
  - (ii) the cost accounting practices must be applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding
- (f) for financing not linked to costs (if any): the results must be achieved or the conditions must be fulfilled as described in Annex 1.

In addition, for direct cost categories (e.g. personnel, travel & subsistence, subcontracting and other direct costs) only costs that are directly linked to the action implementation and can therefore be attributed to it directly are eligible. They must not include any indirect costs (i.e. costs that are only indirectly linked to the action, e.g. via cost drivers).

## 6.2 Specific eligibility conditions for each budget category

For each budget category, the **specific eligibility conditions** are as follows:

### Direct costs

#### A. Personnel costs

**A.1 Costs for employees (or equivalent)** are eligible as personnel costs if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are related to personnel working for the beneficiary under an employment contract (or equivalent appointing act) and assigned to the action.

They must be limited to salaries, social security contributions, taxes and other costs linked to the

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remuneration, if they arise from national law or the employment contract (or equivalent appointing act) and be calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, in accordance with the following method:

{daily rate for the person  
multiplied by  
number of day-equivalents worked on the action (rounded up or down to the nearest half-day)}.

The daily rate must be calculated as:

{annual personnel costs for the person  
divided by  
215}.

The number of day-equivalents declared for a person must be identifiable and verifiable (see Article 20).

The total number of day-equivalents declared in EU grants, for a person for a year, cannot be higher than 215.

The personnel costs may also include supplementary payments for personnel assigned to the action (including payments on the basis of supplementary contracts regardless of their nature), if:

- it is part of the beneficiary's usual remuneration practices and is paid in a consistent manner whenever the same kind of work or expertise is required
- the criteria used to calculate the supplementary payments are objective and generally applied by the beneficiary, regardless of the source of funding used.

**A.2 and A.3 Costs for natural persons working under a direct contract** other than an employment contract and costs for **seconded persons by a third party against payment** are also eligible as personnel costs, if they are assigned to the action, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and:

- (a) work under conditions similar to those of an employee (in particular regarding the way the work is organised, the tasks that are performed and the premises where they are performed) and
- (b) the result of the work belongs to the beneficiary (unless agreed otherwise).

They must be calculated on the basis of a rate which corresponds to the costs actually incurred for the direct contract or secondment and must not be significantly different from those for personnel performing similar tasks under an employment contract with the beneficiary.

**A.4 The work of SME owners** for the action (i.e. owners of beneficiaries that are small and medium-sized enterprises<sup>10</sup> not receiving a salary) or **natural person beneficiaries** (i.e. beneficiaries that are

<sup>10</sup> For the definition, see Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC: micro, small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) are enterprises

- engaged in an economic activity, irrespective of their legal form (including, in particular, self-employed persons and family businesses engaged in craft or other activities, and partnerships or associations regularly engaged in an economic activity) and

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natural persons not receiving a salary) may be declared as personnel costs, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are calculated as unit costs in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a.

**A.5** The work of **volunteers** for the action (i.e. persons who freely work for an organisation, on a non-compulsory basis and without being paid) may be declared as personnel costs, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are calculated as unit costs in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a.

They:

- may not exceed the maximum amount for volunteers for the action (which corresponds to 50% of the total (ineligible and eligible) project costs and contributions estimated in the proposal)
- may not exceed the maximum amount for volunteers for each beneficiary set out in Annex 2
- may not make the maximum EU contribution to costs higher than the total eligible costs without volunteers.

If also indirect costs for volunteers are declared eligible in the call conditions, the amount of indirect costs may be added to the volunteers costs category in Annex 2, at the flat-rate set out in Point E.

## **B. Subcontracting costs**

**Subcontracting costs** for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges, such as non-deductible or non-refundable value added tax (VAT)) are eligible, if they are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are awarded using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure subcontracts with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 12).

Beneficiaries that are 'contracting authorities/entities' within the meaning of the EU Directives on public procurement must also comply with the applicable national law on public procurement.

Subcontracting may cover only a limited part of the action.

The tasks to be subcontracted and the estimated cost for each subcontract must be set out in Annex 1 and the total estimated costs of subcontracting per beneficiary must be set out in Annex 2 (or may be approved ex post in the periodic report, if the use of subcontracting does not entail changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants; 'simplified approval procedure').

## **C. Purchase costs**

**Purchase costs** for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges, such as non-deductible or non-refundable value added tax (VAT)) are eligible if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are bought using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure purchases with

- 
- employing fewer than 250 persons (expressed in 'annual working units' as defined in Article 5 of the Recommendation) and which have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million.

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best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 12).

Beneficiaries that are ‘contracting authorities/entities’ within the meaning of the EU Directives on public procurement must also comply with the applicable national law on public procurement.

### **C.1 Travel and subsistence**

Purchases for **travel, accommodation and subsistence** must be calculated as follows:

- travel: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary’s usual practices on travel
- accommodation: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary’s usual practices on travel
- subsistence: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary’s usual practices on travel .

### **C.2 Equipment**

Purchases of **equipment, infrastructure or other assets** specifically for the action (or developed as part of the action tasks) may be declared as full capitalised costs if they fulfil the eligibility conditions applicable to their respective cost categories.

‘Capitalised costs’ means:

- costs incurred in the purchase or for the development of the equipment, infrastructure or other assets and,
- which are recorded under a fixed asset account of the beneficiary in compliance with international accounting standards and the beneficiary’s usual cost accounting practices.

If such equipment, infrastructure or other assets are rented or leased, full costs for **renting or leasing** are eligible, if they do not exceed the depreciation costs of similar equipment, infrastructure or assets and do not include any financing fees.

### **C.3 Other goods, works and services**

Purchases of **other goods, works and services** must be calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred.

Such goods, works and services include, for instance, consumables and supplies, promotion, dissemination, protection of results, translations, publications, certificates and financial guarantees, if required under the Agreement.

## **D. Other cost categories**

### **D.1 Financial support to third parties**

**Costs for providing financial support to third parties** (in the form of **grants, prizes** or similar forms of support; if any) are eligible, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the

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general eligibility conditions, are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and the support is implemented in accordance with the conditions set out in Annex 1.

These conditions must ensure objective and transparent selection procedures and include at least the following:

- (a) for grants (or similar):
  - (i) the maximum amount of financial support for each third party ('recipient'); this amount may not exceed the amount set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 3) or otherwise agreed with the granting authority
  - (ii) the criteria for calculating the exact amount of the financial support
  - (iii) the different types of activity that qualify for financial support, on the basis of a closed list
  - (iv) the persons or categories of persons that will be supported and
  - (v) the criteria and procedures for giving financial support
- (b) for prizes (or similar):
  - (i) the eligibility and award criteria
  - (ii) the amount of the prize and
  - (iii) the payment arrangements.

## **D.2 Land purchase**

Costs for land purchase from private entities (or long-term lease of land or one-off compensations for land use rights) are eligible, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions, are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and:

- (a) the purchase will contribute to improving, maintaining and restoring the integrity of the Natura 2000 network set up pursuant to Article 3 of Directive 92/43/EEC, including through improving connectivity by the creation of corridors, stepping stones, or other elements of green infrastructure
- (b) land purchase is the only or most cost-effective way of achieving the desired conservation outcome
- (c) the land purchased is reserved in the long term for uses consistent with the specific objectives of the LIFE Programme
- (d) the Member State concerned ensures, by way of transfer or otherwise, the long-term assignment of such land to nature conservation purposes and the beneficiary documents this by ensuring that:
  - (i) the entry into the land register includes a condition that the land will be assigned definitively to nature conservation
  - (ii) or, if there is no land register or such a condition is not possible under national law, that

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such a condition is either included in the land sale contract or guaranteed by equivalent means

- (e) for land purchases by private entity beneficiaries: the beneficiaries ensure the long-term conservation by ensuring that:
  - (i) the entry into the land register includes a condition that, in case of their dissolution or incapacity to manage the land according to nature conservation requirements, the property will be transferred to an entity primarily active in the field of nature protection
  - (ii) or, if there is no land register or such a condition is not possible under national law, that such a condition is either included in the land sale contract or guaranteed by equivalent means
- (f) for purchases of partial rights: the entry into the land register duly reflects the long-term nature conservation objectives and the requirements set out in this Article
- (g) for land purchased to be exchanged at a later date for another parcel on which the action will be undertaken: the exchange is carried out before the end of the action and the land exchanged complies with the requirements set out in this Article
- (h) for long-term leases: the lease is of at least 20 years and includes provisions and commitments that ensure the achievement of its objectives in terms of habitat and species protection.

This cost will not be taken into account for the indirect cost flat-rate.

#### **Indirect costs**

#### **E. Indirect costs**

**Indirect costs** will be reimbursed at the flat-rate of 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any).

#### **Contributions**

Not applicable

### **6.3 Ineligible costs and contributions**

The following costs or contributions are **ineligible**:

- (a) costs or contributions that do not comply with the conditions set out above (Article 6.1 and 6.2), in particular:
  - (i) costs related to return on capital and dividends paid by a beneficiary
  - (ii) debt and debt service charges
  - (iii) provisions for future losses or debts
  - (iv) interest owed
  - (v) currency exchange losses

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- (vi) bank costs charged by the beneficiary's bank for transfers from the granting authority
  - (vii) excessive or reckless expenditure
  - (viii) deductible or refundable VAT (including VAT paid by public bodies acting as public authority)
  - (ix) costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant agreement suspension (see Article 31)
  - (x) in-kind contributions by third parties
- (b) costs or contributions declared under other EU grants (or grants awarded by an EU Member State, non-EU country or other body implementing the EU budget), except for the following cases:
- (i) Synergy actions: not applicable
  - (ii) if the action grant is combined with an operating grant<sup>11</sup> running during the same period and the beneficiary can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any (direct or indirect) costs of the action grant
- (c) costs or contributions for staff of a national (or regional/local) administration, for activities that are part of the administration's normal activities (i.e. not undertaken only because of the grant)
- (d) costs or contributions (especially travel and subsistence) for staff or representatives of EU institutions, bodies or agencies
- (e) other :
- (i) country restrictions for eligible costs: not applicable
  - (ii) costs or contributions declared specifically ineligible in the call conditions.

#### **6.4 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary declares costs or contributions that are ineligible, they will be rejected (see Article 27).

This may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **CHAPTER 4 GRANT IMPLEMENTATION**

### **SECTION 1 CONSORTIUM: BENEFICIARIES, AFFILIATED ENTITIES AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

#### **ARTICLE 7 — BENEFICIARIES**

<sup>11</sup> For the definition, see Article 180(2)(b) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: 'operating grant' means an EU grant to finance "the functioning of a body which has an objective forming part of and supporting an EU policy".

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The beneficiaries, as signatories of the Agreement, are fully responsible towards the granting authority for implementing it and for complying with all its obligations.

They must implement the Agreement to their best abilities, in good faith and in accordance with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

They must have the appropriate resources to implement the action and implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with Article 11. If they rely on affiliated entities or other participants (see Articles 8 and 9), they retain sole responsibility towards the granting authority and the other beneficiaries.

They are jointly responsible for the *technical* implementation of the action. If one of the beneficiaries fails to implement their part of the action, the other beneficiaries must ensure that this part is implemented by someone else (without being entitled to an increase of the maximum grant amount and subject to an amendment; see Article 39). The *financial* responsibility of each beneficiary in case of recoveries is governed by Article 22.

The beneficiaries (and their action) must remain eligible under the EU programme funding the grant for the entire duration of the action. Costs and contributions will be eligible only as long as the beneficiary and the action are eligible.

The **internal roles and responsibilities** of the beneficiaries are divided as follows:

- (a) Each beneficiary must:
- (i) keep information stored in the Portal Participant Register up to date (see Article 19)
  - (ii) inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) immediately of any events or circumstances likely to affect significantly or delay the implementation of the action (see Article 19)
  - (iii) submit to the coordinator in good time:
    - the prefinancing guarantees (if required; see Article 23)
    - the financial statements and certificates on the financial statements (CFS) (if required; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)
    - the contribution to the deliverables and technical reports (see Article 21)
    - any other documents or information required by the granting authority under the Agreement
  - (iv) submit via the Portal data and information related to the participation of their affiliated entities.
- (b) The coordinator must:
- (i) monitor that the action is implemented properly (see Article 11)
  - (ii) act as the intermediary for all communications between the consortium and the granting authority, unless the Agreement or granting authority specifies otherwise, and in particular:

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- submit the prefinancing guarantees to the granting authority (if any)
  - request and review any documents or information required and verify their quality and completeness before passing them on to the granting authority
  - submit the deliverables and reports to the granting authority
  - inform the granting authority about the payments made to the other beneficiaries (report on the distribution of payments; if required, see Articles 22 and 32)
- (iii) distribute the payments received from the granting authority to the other beneficiaries without unjustified delay (see Article 22).

The coordinator may not delegate or subcontract the above-mentioned tasks to any other beneficiary or third party (including affiliated entities).

However, coordinators which are public bodies may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(ii) last indent and (iii) above to entities with ‘authorisation to administer’ which they have created or which are controlled by or affiliated to them. In this case, the coordinator retains sole responsibility for the payments and for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Moreover, coordinators which are ‘sole beneficiaries’<sup>12</sup> (or similar, such as European research infrastructure consortia (ERICs)) may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(i) to (iii) above to one of their members. The coordinator retains sole responsibility for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

The beneficiaries must have **internal arrangements** regarding their operation and co-ordination, to ensure that the action is implemented properly.

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 1), these arrangements must be set out in a written **consortium agreement** between the beneficiaries, covering for instance:

- the internal organisation of the consortium
- the management of access to the Portal
- different distribution keys for the payments and financial responsibilities in case of recoveries (if any)
- additional rules on rights and obligations related to background and results (see Article 16)
- settlement of internal disputes
- liability, indemnification and confidentiality arrangements between the beneficiaries.

The internal arrangements must not contain any provision contrary to this Agreement.

## ARTICLE 8 — AFFILIATED ENTITIES

<sup>12</sup> For the definition, see Article 187(2) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: “Where several entities satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant and together form one entity, that entity may be treated as the **sole beneficiary**, including where it is specifically established for the purpose of implementing the action financed by the grant.”

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Not applicable

## **ARTICLE 9 — OTHER PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE ACTION**

### **9.1 Associated partners**

The following entities which cooperate with a beneficiary will participate in the action as ‘associated partners’:

- **Organizacion de Productores Pesqueros de Almeria (OPP71)**, PIC 888517673
- **UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA TOR VERGATA (UNIRO)**, PIC 999844864

Associated partners must implement the action tasks attributed to them in Annex 1 in accordance with Article 11. They may not charge costs or contributions to the action and the costs for their tasks are not eligible.

The tasks must be set out in Annex 1.

The beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 11 (proper implementation), 12 (conflict of interests), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the associated partners.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the associated partners.

### **9.2 Third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action**

Other third parties may give in-kind contributions to the action (i.e. personnel, equipment, other goods, works and services, etc. which are free-of-charge), if necessary for the implementation.

Third parties giving in-kind contributions do not implement any action tasks. They may not charge costs or contributions to the action and the costs for the in-kind contributions are not eligible.

The third parties and their in-kind contributions should be set out in Annex 1.

### **9.3 Subcontractors**

Subcontractors may participate in the action, if necessary for the implementation.

Subcontractors must implement their action tasks in accordance with Article 11. The costs for the subcontracted tasks (invoiced price from the subcontractor) are eligible and may be charged by the beneficiaries, under the conditions set out in Article 6. The costs will be included in Annex 2 as part of the beneficiaries’ costs.

The beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 11 (proper implementation), 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the subcontractors.

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The beneficiaries must ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the subcontractors.

#### **9.4 Recipients of financial support to third parties**

If the action includes providing financial support to third parties (e.g. grants, prizes or similar forms of support), the beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the third parties receiving the support (recipients).

The beneficiaries must also ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the recipients.

### **ARTICLE 10 — PARTICIPANTS WITH SPECIAL STATUS**

#### **10.1 Non-EU participants**

Participants which are established in a non-EU country (if any) undertake to comply with their obligations under the Agreement and:

- to respect general principles (including fundamental rights, values and ethical principles, environmental and labour standards, rules on classified information, intellectual property rights, visibility of funding and protection of personal data)
- for the submission of certificates under Article 24: to use qualified external auditors which are independent and comply with comparable standards as those set out in EU Directive 2006/43/EC<sup>13</sup>
- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for checks, reviews, audits and investigations (including on-the-spot checks, visits and inspections) by the bodies mentioned in that Article (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.).

Special rules on dispute settlement apply (see Data Sheet, Point 5).

#### **10.2 Participants which are international organisations**

Participants which are international organisations (IOs; if any) undertake to comply with their obligations under the Agreement and:

- to respect general principles (including fundamental rights, values and ethical principles, environmental and labour standards, rules on classified information, intellectual property rights, visibility of funding and protection of personal data)
- for the submission of certificates under Article 24: to use either independent public officers or external auditors which comply with comparable standards as those set out in EU Directive 2006/43/EC

<sup>13</sup> Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts or similar national regulations (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

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- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for the checks, reviews, audits and investigations by the bodies mentioned in that Article, taking into account the specific agreements concluded by them and the EU (if any).

For such participants, nothing in the Agreement will be interpreted as a waiver of their privileges or immunities, as accorded by their constituent documents or international law.

Special rules on applicable law and dispute settlement apply (see Article 43 and Data Sheet, Point 5).

### 10.3 Pillar-assessed participants

Pillar-assessed participants (if any) may rely on their own systems, rules and procedures, in so far as they have been positively assessed and do not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries.

‘Pillar-assessment’ means a review by the European Commission on the systems, rules and procedures which participants use for managing EU grants (in particular internal control system, accounting system, external audits, financing of third parties, rules on recovery and exclusion, information on recipients and protection of personal data; see Article 154 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046).

Participants with a positive pillar assessment may rely on their own systems, rules and procedures, in particular for:

- record-keeping (Article 20): may be done in accordance with internal standards, rules and procedures
- currency conversion for financial statements (Article 21): may be done in accordance with usual accounting practices
- guarantees (Article 23): for public law bodies, prefinancing guarantees are not needed
- certificates (Article 24):
  - certificates on the financial statements (CFS): may be provided by their regular internal or external auditors and in accordance with their internal financial regulations and procedures
  - certificates on usual accounting practices (CoMUC): are not needed if those practices are covered by an ex-ante assessment

and use the following specific rules, for:

- recoveries (Article 22): in case of financial support to third parties, there will be no recovery if the participant has done everything possible to retrieve the undue amounts from the third party receiving the support (including legal proceedings) and non-recovery is not due to an error or negligence on its part
- checks, reviews, audits and investigations by the EU (Article 25): will be conducted taking into account the rules and procedures specifically agreed between them and the framework agreement (if any)

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- impact evaluation (Article 26): will be conducted in accordance with the participant's internal rules and procedures and the framework agreement (if any)
- grant agreement suspension (Article 31): certain costs incurred during grant suspension are eligible (notably, minimum costs necessary for a possible resumption of the action and costs relating to contracts which were entered into before the pre-information letter was received and which could not reasonably be suspended, reallocated or terminated on legal grounds)
- grant agreement termination (Article 32): the final grant amount and final payment will be calculated taking into account also costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination takes effect, if the contract was entered into before the pre-information letter was received and could not reasonably be terminated on legal grounds
- liability for damages (Article 33.2): the granting authority must be compensated for damage it sustains as a result of the implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Agreement only if the damage is due to an infringement of the participant's internal rules and procedures or due to a violation of third parties' rights by the participant or one of its employees or individual for whom the employees are responsible.

Participants whose pillar assessment covers procurement and granting procedures may also do purchases, subcontracting and financial support to third parties (Article 6.2) in accordance with their internal rules and procedures for purchases, subcontracting and financial support.

Participants whose pillar assessment covers data protection rules may rely on their internal standards, rules and procedures for data protection (Article 15).

The participants may however not rely on provisions which would breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries or call into question the decision awarding the grant, such as in particular:

- eligibility (Article 6)
- consortium roles and set-up (Articles 7-9)
- security and ethics (Articles 13, 14)
- IPR (including background and results, access rights and rights of use), communication, dissemination and visibility (Articles 16 and 17)
- information obligation (Article 19)
- payment, reporting and amendments (Articles 21, 22 and 39)
- rejections, reductions, suspensions and terminations (Articles 27, 28, 29-32)

If the pillar assessment was subject to remedial measures, reliance on the internal systems, rules and procedures is subject to compliance with those remedial measures.

Participants whose assessment has not yet been updated to cover (the new rules on) data protection may rely on their internal systems, rules and procedures, provided that they ensure that personal data is:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject

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- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data.

Participants must inform the coordinator without delay of any changes to the systems, rules and procedures that were part of the pillar assessment. The coordinator must immediately inform the granting authority.

Pillar-assessed participants that have also concluded a framework agreement with the EU, may moreover — under the same conditions as those above (i.e. not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries) — rely on the provisions set out in that framework agreement.

## **SECTION 2 RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION**

### **ARTICLE 11 — PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION**

#### **11.1 Obligation to properly implement the action**

The beneficiaries must implement the action as described in Annex 1 and in compliance with the provisions of the Agreement, the call conditions and all legal obligations under applicable EU, international and national law.

#### **11.2 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

### **ARTICLE 12 — CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

#### **12.1 Conflict of interests**

The beneficiaries must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the Agreement could be compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other direct or indirect interest ('conflict of interests').

They must formally notify the granting authority without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

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The granting authority may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

## **12.2 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28) and the grant or the beneficiary may be terminated (see Article 32).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **ARTICLE 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY**

### **13.1 Sensitive information**

The parties must keep confidential any data, documents or other material (in any form) that is identified as sensitive in writing ('sensitive information') — during the implementation of the action and for at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

If a beneficiary requests, the granting authority may agree to keep such information confidential for a longer period.

Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use sensitive information only to implement the Agreement.

The beneficiaries may disclose sensitive information to their personnel or other participants involved in the action only if they:

- (a) need to know it in order to implement the Agreement and
- (b) are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The granting authority may disclose sensitive information to its staff and to other EU institutions and bodies.

It may moreover disclose sensitive information to third parties, if:

- (a) this is necessary to implement the Agreement or safeguard the EU financial interests and
- (b) the recipients of the information are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The confidentiality obligations no longer apply if:

- (a) the disclosing party agrees to release the other party
- (b) the information becomes publicly available, without breaching any confidentiality obligation
- (c) the disclosure of the sensitive information is required by EU, international or national law.

Specific confidentiality rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

### **13.2 Classified information**

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The parties must handle classified information in accordance with the applicable EU, international or national law on classified information (in particular, Decision 2015/444<sup>14</sup> and its implementing rules).

Deliverables which contain classified information must be submitted according to special procedures agreed with the granting authority.

Action tasks involving classified information may be subcontracted only after explicit approval (in writing) from the granting authority.

Classified information may not be disclosed to any third party (including participants involved in the action implementation) without prior explicit written approval from the granting authority.

Specific security rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

### **13.3 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **ARTICLE 14 — ETHICS AND VALUES**

### **14.1 Ethics**

The action must be carried out in line with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles.

Specific ethics rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

### **14.2 Values**

The beneficiaries must commit to and ensure the respect of basic EU values (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities).

Specific rules on values (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

### **14.3 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **ARTICLE 15 — DATA PROTECTION**

### **15.1 Data processing by the granting authority**

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<sup>14</sup> Commission Decision 2015/444/EC, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

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Any personal data under the Agreement will be processed under the responsibility of the data controller of the granting authority in accordance with and for the purposes set out in the Portal Privacy Statement.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission, an EU regulatory or executive agency, joint undertaking or other EU body, the processing will be subject to Regulation 2018/1725<sup>15</sup>.

### **15.2 Data processing by the beneficiaries**

The beneficiaries must process personal data under the Agreement in compliance with the applicable EU, international and national law on data protection (in particular, Regulation 2016/679<sup>16</sup>).

They must ensure that personal data is:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subjects
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the data.

The beneficiaries may grant their personnel access to personal data only if it is strictly necessary for implementing, managing and monitoring the Agreement. The beneficiaries must ensure that the personnel is under a confidentiality obligation.

The beneficiaries must inform the persons whose data are transferred to the granting authority and provide them with the Portal Privacy Statement.

### **15.3 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **ARTICLE 16 — INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE**

<sup>15</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

<sup>16</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC ('GDPR') (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).

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### 16.1 Background and access rights to background

The beneficiaries must give each other and the other participants access to the background identified as needed for implementing the action, subject to any specific rules in Annex 5.

‘Background’ means any data, know-how or information — whatever its form or nature (tangible or intangible), including any rights such as intellectual property rights — that is:

- (a) held by the beneficiaries before they acceded to the Agreement and
- (b) needed to implement the action or exploit the results.

If background is subject to rights of a third party, the beneficiary concerned must ensure that it is able to comply with its obligations under the Agreement.

### 16.2 Ownership of results

The granting authority does not obtain ownership of the results produced under the action.

‘Results’ means any tangible or intangible effect of the action, such as data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature, whether or not it can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights.

### 16.3 Rights of use of the granting authority on materials, documents and information received for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes

The granting authority has the right to use non-sensitive information relating to the action and materials and documents received from the beneficiaries (notably summaries for publication, deliverables, as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form) for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes — during the action or afterwards.

The right to use the beneficiaries’ materials, documents and information is granted in the form of a royalty-free, non-exclusive and irrevocable licence, which includes the following rights:

- (a) **use for its own purposes** (in particular, making them available to persons working for the granting authority or any other EU service (including institutions, bodies, offices, agencies, etc.) or EU Member State institution or body; copying or reproducing them in whole or in part, in unlimited numbers; and communication through press information services)
- (b) **distribution to the public** (in particular, publication as hard copies and in electronic or digital format, publication on the internet, as a downloadable or non-downloadable file, broadcasting by any channel, public display or presentation, communicating through press information services, or inclusion in widely accessible databases or indexes)
- (c) **editing or redrafting** (including shortening, summarising, inserting other elements (e.g. meta-data, legends, other graphic, visual, audio or text elements), extracting parts (e.g. audio or video files), dividing into parts, use in a compilation)
- (d) **translation**
- (e) **storage** in paper, electronic or other form

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- (f) **archiving**, in line with applicable document-management rules
- (g) the right to authorise **third parties** to act on its behalf or sub-license to third parties the modes of use set out in Points (b), (c), (d) and (f), if needed for the information, communication and publicity activity of the granting authority
- (h) **processing**, analysing, aggregating the materials, documents and information received and **producing derivative works**.

The rights of use are granted for the whole duration of the industrial or intellectual property rights concerned.

If materials or documents are subject to moral rights or third party rights (including intellectual property rights or rights of natural persons on their image and voice), the beneficiaries must ensure that they comply with their obligations under this Agreement (in particular, by obtaining the necessary licences and authorisations from the rights holders concerned).

Where applicable, the granting authority will insert the following information:

“© – [year] – [name of the copyright owner]. All rights reserved. Licensed to the [name of granting authority] under conditions.”

#### **16.4 Specific rules on IPR, results and background**

Specific rules regarding intellectual property rights, results and background (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

#### **16.5 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

### **ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY**

#### **17.1 Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action**

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, the beneficiaries must promote the action and its results by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public), in accordance with Annex 1 and in a strategic, coherent and effective manner.

Before engaging in a communication or dissemination activity expected to have a major media impact, the beneficiaries must inform the granting authority.

#### **17.2 Visibility — European flag and funding statement**

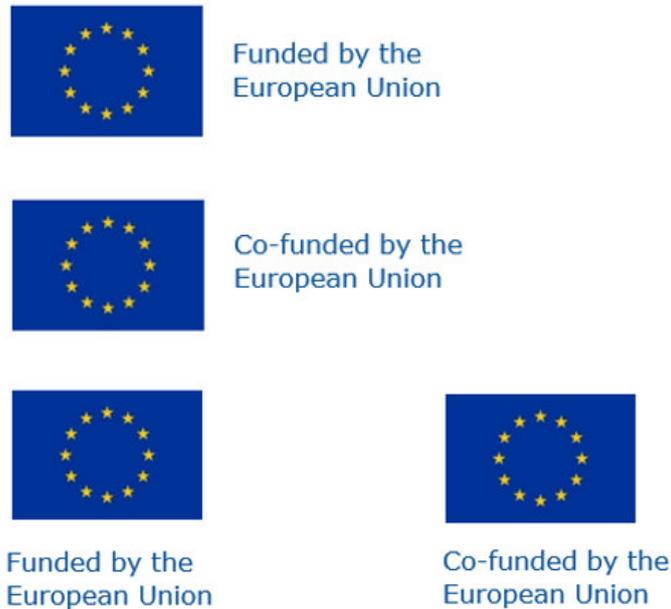
Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, communication activities of the beneficiaries related to the action (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), dissemination activities and any infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, supplies or major result funded

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by the grant must acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages, where appropriate):



The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text.

Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos (e.g. of beneficiaries or sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of their obligations under this Article, the beneficiaries may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the granting authority. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

### 17.3 Quality of information — Disclaimer

Any communication or dissemination activity related to the action must use factually accurate information.

Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

“Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or [name of the granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.”

### 17.4 Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules

Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

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### **17.5 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **ARTICLE 18 — SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION**

### **18.1 Specific rules for carrying out the action**

Specific rules for implementing the action (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

### **18.2 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **SECTION 3 GRANT ADMINISTRATION**

### **ARTICLE 19 — GENERAL INFORMATION OBLIGATIONS**

#### **19.1 Information requests**

The beneficiaries must provide — during the action or afterwards and in accordance with Article 7 — any information requested in order to verify eligibility of the costs or contributions declared, proper implementation of the action and compliance with the other obligations under the Agreement.

The information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

#### **19.2 Participant Register data updates**

The beneficiaries must keep — at all times, during the action or afterwards — their information stored in the Portal Participant Register up to date, in particular, their name, address, legal representatives, legal form and organisation type.

#### **19.3 Information about events and circumstances which impact the action**

The beneficiaries must immediately inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) of any of the following:

- (a) **events** which are likely to affect or delay the implementation of the action or affect the EU's financial interests, in particular:
  - (i) changes in their legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour signed before grant signature)

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(ii) linked action information: not applicable

(b) **circumstances** affecting:

(i) the decision to award the grant or

(ii) compliance with requirements under the Agreement.

#### **19.4 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

### **ARTICLE 20 — RECORD-KEEPING**

#### **20.1 Keeping records and supporting documents**

The beneficiaries must — at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6) — keep records and other supporting documents to prove the proper implementation of the action in line with the accepted standards in the respective field (if any).

In addition, the beneficiaries must — for the same period — keep the following to justify the amounts declared:

- (a) for actual costs: adequate records and supporting documents to prove the costs declared (such as contracts, subcontracts, invoices and accounting records); in addition, the beneficiaries' usual accounting and internal control procedures must enable direct reconciliation between the amounts declared, the amounts recorded in their accounts and the amounts stated in the supporting documents
- (b) for flat-rate costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the eligibility of the costs or contributions to which the flat-rate is applied
- (c) for the following simplified costs and contributions: the beneficiaries do not need to keep specific records on the actual costs incurred, but must keep:
  - (i) for unit costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the number of units declared
  - (ii) for lump sum costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove proper implementation of the work as described in Annex 1
  - (iii) for financing not linked to costs (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the achievement of the results or the fulfilment of the conditions as described in Annex 1
- (d) for unit, flat-rate and lump sum costs and contributions according to usual cost accounting practices (if any): the beneficiaries must keep any adequate records and supporting documents to prove that their cost accounting practices have been applied in a consistent manner, based on

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objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding, and that they comply with the eligibility conditions set out in Articles 6.1 and 6.2.

Moreover, the following is needed for specific budget categories:

- (e) for personnel costs: time worked for the beneficiary under the action must be supported by declarations signed monthly by the person and their supervisor, unless another reliable time-record system is in place; the granting authority may accept alternative evidence supporting the time worked for the action declared, if it considers that it offers an adequate level of assurance
- (f) additional record-keeping rules: not applicable

The records and supporting documents must be made available upon request (see Article 19) or in the context of checks, reviews, audits or investigations (see Article 25).

If there are on-going checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims under the Agreement (including the extension of findings; see Article 25), the beneficiaries must keep these records and other supporting documentation until the end of these procedures.

The beneficiaries must keep the original documents. Digital and digitalised documents are considered originals if they are authorised by the applicable national law. The granting authority may accept non-original documents if they offer a comparable level of assurance.

## 20.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, costs or contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## ARTICLE 21 — REPORTING

### 21.1 Continuous reporting

The beneficiaries must continuously report on the progress of the action (e.g. **deliverables, milestones, outputs/outcomes, critical risks, indicators**, etc; if any), in the Portal Continuous Reporting tool and in accordance with the timing and conditions it sets out (as agreed with the granting authority).

Standardised deliverables (e.g. progress reports not linked to payments, reports on cumulative expenditure, special reports, etc; if any) must be submitted using the templates published on the Portal.

### 21.2 Periodic reporting: Technical reports and financial statements

In addition, the beneficiaries must provide reports to request payments, in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2):

- for additional prefinancings (if any): an **additional prefinancing report**
- for interim payments (if any) and the final payment: a **periodic report**.

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The prefinancing and periodic reports include a technical and financial part.

The technical part includes an overview of the action implementation. It must be prepared using the template available in the Portal Periodic Reporting tool.

The financial part of the additional prefinancing report includes a statement on the use of the previous prefinancing payment.

The financial part of the periodic report includes:

- the financial statements (individual and consolidated; for all beneficiaries/affiliated entities)
- the explanation on the use of resources (or detailed cost reporting table, if required)
- the certificates on the financial statements (CFS) (if required; see Article 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3).

The **financial statements** must detail the eligible costs and contributions for each budget category and, for the final payment, also the revenues for the action (see Articles 6 and 22).

All eligible costs and contributions incurred should be declared, even if they exceed the amounts indicated in the estimated budget (see Annex 2). Amounts that are not declared in the individual financial statements will not be taken into account by the granting authority.

By signing the financial statements (directly in the Portal Periodic Reporting tool), the beneficiaries confirm that:

- the information provided is complete, reliable and true
- the costs and contributions declared are eligible (see Article 6)
- the costs and contributions can be substantiated by adequate records and supporting documents (see Article 20) that will be produced upon request (see Article 19) or in the context of checks, reviews, audits and investigations (see Article 25)
- for the final periodic report: all the revenues have been declared (if required; see Article 22).

Beneficiaries will have to submit also the financial statements of their affiliated entities (if any). In case of recoveries (see Article 22), beneficiaries will be held responsible also for the financial statements of their affiliated entities.

### **21.3 Currency for financial statements and conversion into euros**

The financial statements must be drafted in euro.

Beneficiaries with general accounts established in a currency other than the euro must convert the costs recorded in their accounts into euro, at the average of the daily exchange rates published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union* (ECB website), calculated over the corresponding reporting period.

If no daily euro exchange rate is published in the *Official Journal* for the currency in question, they must be converted at the average of the monthly accounting exchange rates published on the European Commission website (InforEuro), calculated over the corresponding reporting period.

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Beneficiaries with general accounts in euro must convert costs incurred in another currency into euro according to their usual accounting practices.

#### **21.4 Reporting language**

The reporting must be in the language of the Agreement, unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

#### **21.5 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a report submitted does not comply with this Article, the granting authority may suspend the payment deadline (see Article 29) and apply other measures described in Chapter 5.

If the coordinator breaches its reporting obligations, the granting authority may terminate the grant or the coordinator's participation (see Article 32) or apply other measures described in Chapter 5.

### **ARTICLE 22 — PAYMENTS AND RECOVERIES — CALCULATION OF AMOUNTS DUE**

#### **22.1 Payments and payment arrangements**

Payments will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

They will be made in euro to the bank account indicated by the coordinator (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2) and must be distributed without unjustified delay (restrictions may apply to distribution of the initial prefinancing payment; see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

Payments to this bank account will discharge the granting authority from its payment obligation.

The cost of payment transfers will be borne as follows:

- the granting authority bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank
- the beneficiary bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank
- the party causing a repetition of a transfer bears all costs of the repeated transfer.

Payments by the granting authority will be considered to have been carried out on the date when they are debited to its account.

#### **22.2 Recoveries**

Recoveries will be made, if — at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — it turns out that the granting authority has paid too much and needs to recover the amounts undue.

The general liability regime for recoveries (first-line liability) is as follows: At final payment, the coordinator will be fully liable for recoveries, even if it has not been the final recipient of the undue amounts. At beneficiary termination or after final payment, recoveries will be made directly against the beneficiaries concerned.

Beneficiaries will be fully liable for repaying the debts of their affiliated entities.

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In case of enforced recoveries (see Article 22.4):

- the beneficiaries will be jointly and severally liable for repaying debts of another beneficiary under the Agreement (including late-payment interest), if required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)
- affiliated entities will be held liable for repaying debts of their beneficiaries under the Agreement (including late-payment interest), if required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.4).

## 22.3 Amounts due

### 22.3.1 Prefinancing payments

The aim of the prefinancing is to provide the beneficiaries with a float.

It remains the property of the EU until the final payment.

For **initial prefinancings** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

For **additional prefinancings** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are also set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2). However, if the statement on the use of the previous prefinancing payment shows that less than 70% was used, the amount set out in the Data Sheet will be reduced by the difference between the 70% threshold and the amount used.

Prefinancing payments (or parts of them) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

### 22.3.2 Amount due at beneficiary termination — Recovery

In case of beneficiary termination, the granting authority will determine the provisional amount due for the beneficiary concerned. Payments (if any) will be made with the next interim or final payment.

The **amount due** will be calculated in the following step:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

#### Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary for all reporting periods, by calculating the 'maximum EU contribution to costs' (applying the funding rate to the accepted costs of the beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs and CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

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After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting amount is the ‘total accepted EU contribution’ for the beneficiary.

The **balance** is then calculated by deducting the payments received (if any; see report on the distribution of payments in Article 32), from the total accepted EU contribution:

$$\begin{aligned} & \{ \text{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary} \\ & \text{minus} \\ & \{ \text{prefinancing and interim payments received (if any)} \} \}. \end{aligned}$$

If the balance is **positive**, the amount will be included in the next interim or final payment to the consortium.

If the balance is **negative**, it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the amount due, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered and ask this amount to be paid to the coordinator (**confirmation letter**).

The amounts will later on also be taken into account for the next interim or final payment.

### 22.3.3 Interim payments

Interim payments reimburse the eligible costs and contributions claimed for the implementation of the action during the reporting periods (if any).

Interim payments (if any) will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Payment is subject to the approval of the periodic report. Its approval does not imply recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of its content.

The **interim payment** will be calculated by the granting authority in the following steps:

- Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution
- Step 2 — Limit to the interim payment ceiling

#### Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will calculate the ‘accepted EU contribution’ for the action for the reporting period, by first calculating the ‘maximum EU contribution to costs’ (applying the funding rate to the accepted costs of each beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs, and CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

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After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions from beneficiary termination (if any). The resulting amount is the ‘total accepted EU contribution’.

#### Step 2 — Limit to the interim payment ceiling

The resulting amount is then capped to ensure that the total amount of prefinancing and interim payments (if any) does not exceed the interim payment ceiling set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Interim payments (or parts of them) may be offset (without the beneficiaries’ consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

#### **22.3.4 Final payment — Final grant amount — Revenues and Profit — Recovery**

The final payment (payment of the balance) reimburses the remaining part of the eligible costs and contributions claimed for the implementation of the action (if any).

The final payment will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Payment is subject to the approval of the final periodic report. Its approval does not imply recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of its content.

The **final grant amount for the action** will be calculated in the following steps:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 2 — Limit to the maximum grant amount

Step 3 — Reduction due to the no-profit rule

#### Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the ‘accepted EU contribution’ for the action for all reporting periods, by calculating the ‘maximum EU contribution to costs’ (applying the funding rate to the total accepted costs of each beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs, CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting amount is the ‘total accepted EU contribution’.

#### Step 2 — Limit to the maximum grant amount

If the resulting amount is higher than the maximum grant amount set out in Article 5.2, it will be limited to the latter.

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### Step 3 — Reduction due to the no-profit rule

If the no-profit rule is provided for in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2), the grant must not produce a profit (i.e. surplus of the amount obtained following Step 2 plus the action's revenues, over the eligible costs and contributions approved by the granting authority).

'Revenue' is all income generated by the action, during its duration (see Article 4), for beneficiaries that are profit legal entities.

If there is a profit, it will be deducted in proportion to the final rate of reimbursement of the eligible costs approved by the granting authority (as compared to the amount calculated following Steps 1 and 2 minus the contributions).

The **balance** (final payment) is then calculated by deducting the total amount of prefinancing and interim payments already made (if any), from the final grant amount:

$$\begin{aligned} & \{ \text{final grant amount} \\ & \text{minus} \\ & \{ \text{prefinancing and interim payments made (if any)} \} \}. \end{aligned}$$

If the balance is **positive**, it will be **paid** to the coordinator.

The final payment (or part of it) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

If the balance is **negative**, it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the final grant amount, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered (**confirmation letter**), together with a **debit note** with the terms and date for payment.

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

#### **22.3.5 Audit implementation after final payment — Revised final grant amount — Recovery**

If — after the final payment (in particular, after checks, reviews, audits or investigations; see

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Article 25) — the granting authority rejects costs or contributions (see Article 27) or reduces the grant (see Article 28), it will calculate the **revised final grant amount** for the beneficiary concerned.

The **beneficiary revised final grant amount** will be calculated in the following step:

Step 1 — Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

Step 1 — Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the ‘revised accepted EU contribution’ for the beneficiary, by calculating the ‘revised accepted costs’ and ‘revised accepted contributions’.

After that, it will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting ‘revised total accepted EU contribution’ is the beneficiary revised final grant amount.

If the revised final grant amount is lower than the beneficiary’s final grant amount (i.e. its share in the final grant amount for the action), it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The **beneficiary final grant amount** (i.e. share in the final grant amount for the action) is calculated as follows:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \{\text{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary} \\ \text{divided by} \\ \text{total accepted EU contribution for the action}\} \\ \text{multiplied by} \\ \text{final grant amount for the action} \end{array} \right\}.$$

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered (**confirmation letter**), together with a **debit note** with the terms and the date for payment.

Recoveries against affiliated entities (if any) will be handled through their beneficiaries.

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

## 22.4 Enforced recovery

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the amount due will be recovered:

- (a) by offsetting the amount — without the coordinator or beneficiary’s consent — against any amounts owed to the coordinator or beneficiary by the granting authority.

In exceptional circumstances, to safeguard the EU financial interests, the amount may be offset before the payment date specified in the debit note.

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For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, debts may also be offset against amounts owed by other Commission services or executive agencies.

- (b) by drawing on the financial guarantee(s) (if any)
- (c) by holding other beneficiaries jointly and severally liable (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)
- (d) by holding affiliated entities jointly and severally liable (if any, see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)
- (e) by taking legal action (see Article 43) or, provided that the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, by adopting an enforceable decision under Article 299 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 100(2) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

The amount to be recovered will be increased by **late-payment interest** at the rate set out in Article 22.5, from the day following the payment date in the debit note, up to and including the date the full payment is received.

Partial payments will be first credited against expenses, charges and late-payment interest and then against the principal.

Bank charges incurred in the recovery process will be borne by the beneficiary, unless Directive 2015/2366<sup>17</sup> applies.

For grants where the granting authority is an EU executive agency, enforced recovery by offsetting or enforceable decision will be done by the services of the European Commission (see also Article 43).

## 22.5 Consequences of non-compliance

**22.5.1** If the granting authority does not pay within the payment deadlines (see above), the beneficiaries are entitled to **late-payment interest** at the rate applied by the European Central Bank (ECB) for its main refinancing operations in euros ('reference rate'), plus the rate specified in the Data Sheet (Point 4.2). The reference rate is the rate in force on the first day of the month in which the payment deadline expires, as published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

If the late-payment interest is lower than or equal to EUR 200, it will be paid to the coordinator only on request submitted within two months of receiving the late payment.

Late-payment interest is not due if all beneficiaries are EU Member States (including regional and local government authorities or other public bodies acting on behalf of a Member State for the purpose of this Agreement).

If payments or the payment deadline are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30), payment will not be considered as late.

<sup>17</sup> Directive (EU) 2015/2366 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on payment services in the internal market, amending Directives 2002/65/EC, 2009/110/EC and 2013/36/EU and Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010, and repealing Directive 2007/64/EC (OJ L 337, 23.12.2015, p. 35).

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Late-payment interest covers the period running from the day following the due date for payment (see above), up to and including the date of payment.

Late-payment interest is not considered for the purposes of calculating the final grant amount.

**22.5.2** If the coordinator breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 29) and the grant or the coordinator may be terminated (see Article 32).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **ARTICLE 23 — GUARANTEES**

### **23.1 Prefinancing guarantee**

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2), the beneficiaries must provide (one or more) prefinancing guarantee(s) in accordance with the timing and the amounts set out in the Data Sheet.

The coordinator must submit them to the granting authority in due time before the prefinancing they are linked to.

The guarantees must be drawn up using the template published on the Portal and fulfil the following conditions:

- (a) be provided by a bank or approved financial institution established in the EU or — if requested by the coordinator and accepted by the granting authority — by a third party or a bank or financial institution established outside the EU offering equivalent security
- (b) the guarantor stands as first-call guarantor and does not require the granting authority to first have recourse against the principal debtor (i.e. the beneficiary concerned) and
- (c) remain explicitly in force until the final payment and, if the final payment takes the form of a recovery, until five months after the debit note is notified to a beneficiary.

They will be released within the following month.

### **23.2 Consequences of non-compliance**

If the beneficiaries breach their obligation to provide the prefinancing guarantee, the prefinancing will not be paid.

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **ARTICLE 24 — CERTIFICATES**

### **24.1 Operational verification report (OVR)**

Not applicable

### **24.2 Certificate on the financial statements (CFS)**

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.3), the beneficiaries must provide

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certificates on their financial statements (CFS), in accordance with the schedule, threshold and conditions set out in the Data Sheet.

The coordinator must submit them as part of the periodic report (see Article 21).

The certificates must be drawn up using the template published on the Portal, cover the costs declared on the basis of actual costs and costs according to usual cost accounting practices (if any), and fulfil the following conditions:

- (a) be provided by a qualified approved external auditor which is independent and complies with Directive 2006/43/EC<sup>18</sup> (or for public bodies: by a competent independent public officer)
- (b) the verification must be carried out according to the highest professional standards to ensure that the financial statements comply with the provisions under the Agreement and that the costs declared are eligible.

The certificates will not affect the granting authority's right to carry out its own checks, reviews or audits, nor preclude the European Court of Auditors (ECA), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) or the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) from using their prerogatives for audits and investigations under the Agreement (see Article 25).

If the costs (or a part of them) were already audited by the granting authority, these costs do not need to be covered by the certificate and will not be counted for calculating the threshold (if any).

#### **24.3 Certificate on the compliance of usual cost accounting practices (CoMUC)**

Not applicable

#### **24.4 Systems and process audit (SPA)**

Not applicable

#### **24.5 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary does not submit a certificate on the financial statements (CFS) or the certificate is rejected, the accepted EU contribution to costs will be capped to reflect the CFS threshold.

If a beneficiary breaches any of its other obligations under this Article, the granting authority may apply the measures described in Chapter 5.

### **ARTICLE 25 — CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS — EXTENSION OF FINDINGS**

#### **25.1 Granting authority checks, reviews and audits**

##### **25.1.1 Internal checks**

The granting authority may — during the action or afterwards — check the proper implementation of

<sup>18</sup> Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts or similar national regulations (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

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the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement, including assessing costs and contributions, deliverables and reports.

### 25.1.2 Project reviews

The granting authority may carry out reviews on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement (general project reviews or specific issues reviews).

Such project reviews may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent, outside experts. If it uses outside experts, the coordinator or beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information and data in addition to deliverables and reports already submitted (including information on the use of resources). The granting authority may request beneficiaries to provide such information to it directly. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may be requested to participate in meetings, including with the outside experts.

For **on-the-spot visits**, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including to the outside experts) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the review findings, a **project review report** will be drawn up.

The granting authority will formally notify the project review report to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations.

Project reviews (including project review reports) will be in the language of the Agreement.

### 25.1.3 Audits

The granting authority may carry out audits on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Such audits may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

The granting authority may use its own audit service, delegate audits to a centralised service or use external audit firms. If it uses an external firm, the beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested —

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any information (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data) to verify compliance with the Agreement. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

For **on-the-spot** visits, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including for the external audit firm) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the audit findings, a **draft audit report** will be drawn up.

The auditors will formally notify the draft audit report to the beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations (contradictory audit procedure).

The **final audit report** will take into account observations by the beneficiary concerned and will be formally notified to them.

Audits (including audit reports) will be in the language of the Agreement.

## **25.2 European Commission checks, reviews and audits in grants of other granting authorities**

Where the granting authority is not the European Commission, the latter has the same rights of checks, reviews and audits as the granting authority.

## **25.3 Access to records for assessing simplified forms of funding**

The beneficiaries must give the European Commission access to their statutory records for the periodic assessment of simplified forms of funding which are used in EU programmes.

## **25.4 OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations**

The following bodies may also carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations — during the action or afterwards:

- the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) under Regulations No 883/2013<sup>19</sup> and No 2185/96<sup>20</sup>
- the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) under Regulation 2017/1939
- the European Court of Auditors (ECA) under Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 257 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

If requested by these bodies, the beneficiary concerned must provide full, accurate and complete information in the format requested (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or

<sup>19</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18/09/2013, p. 1).

<sup>20</sup> Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/1996 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15/11/1996, p. 2).

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other personal data, including in electronic format) and allow access to sites and premises for on-the-spot visits or inspections — as provided for under these Regulations.

To this end, the beneficiary concerned must keep all relevant information relating to the action, at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (Point 6) and, in any case, until any ongoing checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims have been concluded.

## **25.5 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations — Extension of results of reviews, audits or investigations**

### **25.5.1 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations in this grant**

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations carried out in the context of this grant may lead to rejections (see Article 27), grant reduction (see Article 28) or other measures described in Chapter 5.

Rejections or grant reductions after the final payment will lead to a revised final grant amount (see Article 22).

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations during the action implementation may lead to a request for amendment (see Article 39), to change the description of the action set out in Annex 1.

Checks, reviews, audits or investigations that find systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations in any EU grant may also lead to consequences in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions ('extension to other grants').

Moreover, findings arising from an OLAF or EPPO investigation may lead to criminal prosecution under national law.

### **25.5.2 Extension from other grants**

Results of checks, reviews, audits or investigations in other grants may be extended to this grant, if:

- (a) the beneficiary concerned is found, in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions, to have committed systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant and
- (b) those findings are formally notified to the beneficiary concerned — together with the list of grants affected by the findings — within the time-limit for audits set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned of the intention to extend the findings and the list of grants affected.

If the extension concerns **rejections of costs or contributions**: the notification will include:

- (a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings
- (b) the request to submit revised financial statements for all grants affected
- (c) the correction rate for extrapolation, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors, to calculate the amounts to be rejected, if the beneficiary concerned:

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- (i) considers that the submission of revised financial statements is not possible or practicable or
- (ii) does not submit revised financial statements.

If the extension concerns **grant reductions**: the notification will include:

- (a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings and
- (b) the **correction rate for extrapolation**, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors and the principle of proportionality.

The beneficiary concerned has **60 days** from receiving notification to submit observations, revised financial statements or to propose a duly substantiated **alternative correction method/rate**.

On the basis of this, the granting authority will analyse the impact and decide on the implementation (i.e. start rejection or grant reduction procedures, either on the basis of the revised financial statements or the announced/alternative method/rate or a mix of those; see Articles 27 and 28).

## 25.6 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, costs or contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## ARTICLE 26 — IMPACT EVALUATIONS

### 26.1 Impact evaluation

The granting authority may carry out impact evaluations of the action, measured against the objectives and indicators of the EU programme funding the grant.

Such evaluations may be started during implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiaries and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent outside experts.

The coordinator or beneficiaries must provide any information relevant to evaluate the impact of the action, including information in electronic format.

### 26.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the granting authority may apply the measures described in Chapter 5.

## CHAPTER 5 CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

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## **SECTION 1 REJECTIONS AND GRANT REDUCTION**

### **ARTICLE 27 — REJECTION OF COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

#### **27.1 Conditions**

The granting authority will — at beneficiary termination, interim payment, final payment or afterwards — reject any costs or contributions which are ineligible (see Article 6), in particular following checks, reviews, audits or investigations (see Article 25).

The rejection may also be based on the extension of findings from other grants to this grant (see Article 25).

Ineligible costs or contributions will be rejected.

#### **27.2 Procedure**

If the rejection does not lead to a recovery, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator or beneficiary concerned of the rejection, the amounts and the reasons why. The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may — within 30 days of receiving notification — submit observations if it disagrees with the rejection (payment review procedure).

If the rejection leads to a recovery, the granting authority will follow the contradictory procedure with pre-information letter set out in Article 22.

#### **27.3 Effects**

If the granting authority rejects costs or contributions, it will deduct them from the costs or contributions declared and then calculate the amount due (and, if needed, make a recovery; see Article 22).

### **ARTICLE 28 — GRANT REDUCTION**

#### **28.1 Conditions**

The granting authority may — at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — reduce the grant for a beneficiary, if:

- (a) the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:
  - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
  - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or
- (b) the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants

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awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (see Article 25).

The amount of the reduction will be calculated for each beneficiary concerned and proportionate to the seriousness and the duration of the errors, irregularities or fraud or breach of obligations, by applying an individual reduction rate to their accepted EU contribution.

## 28.2 Procedure

If the grant reduction does not lead to a recovery, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator or beneficiary concerned of the reduction, the amount to be reduced and the reasons why. The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may — within 30 days of receiving notification — submit observations if it disagrees with the reduction (payment review procedure).

If the grant reduction leads to a recovery, the granting authority will follow the contradictory procedure with pre-information letter set out in Article 22.

## 28.3 Effects

If the granting authority reduces the grant, it will deduct the reduction and then calculate the amount due (and, if needed, make a recovery; see Article 22).

## SECTION 2 SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION

### ARTICLE 29 — PAYMENT DEADLINE SUSPENSION

#### 29.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at any moment — suspend the payment deadline if a payment cannot be processed because:

- (a) the required report (see Article 21) has not been submitted or is not complete or additional information is needed
- (b) there are doubts about the amount to be paid (e.g. ongoing audit extension procedure, queries about eligibility, need for a grant reduction, etc.) and additional checks, reviews, audits or investigations are necessary, or
- (c) there are other issues affecting the EU financial interests.

#### 29.2 Procedure

The granting authority will formally notify the coordinator of the suspension and the reasons why.

The suspension will **take effect** the day the notification is sent.

If the conditions for suspending the payment deadline are no longer met, the suspension will be **lifted** — and the remaining time to pay (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2) will resume.

If the suspension exceeds two months, the coordinator may request the granting authority to confirm if the suspension will continue.

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If the payment deadline has been suspended due to the non-compliance of the report and the revised report is not submitted (or was submitted but is also rejected), the granting authority may also terminate the grant or the participation of the coordinator (see Article 32).

## ARTICLE 30 — PAYMENT SUSPENSION

### 30.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at any moment — suspend payments, in whole or in part for one or more beneficiaries, if:

- (a) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed or is suspected of having committed:
  - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
  - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or
- (b) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant.

If payments are suspended for one or more beneficiaries, the granting authority will make partial payment(s) for the part(s) not suspended. If suspension concerns the final payment, the payment (or recovery) of the remaining amount after suspension is lifted will be considered to be the payment that closes the action.

### 30.2 Procedure

Before suspending payments, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to suspend payments and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the suspension (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

At the end of the suspension procedure, the granting authority will also inform the coordinator.

The suspension will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent.

If the conditions for resuming payments are met, the suspension will be **lifted**. The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned (and the coordinator) and set the suspension end date.

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During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid to the beneficiaries concerned. For interim payments, the periodic reports for all reporting periods except the last one (see Article 21) must not contain any financial statements from the beneficiary concerned (or its affiliated entities). The coordinator must include them in the next periodic report after the suspension is lifted or — if suspension is not lifted before the end of the action — in the last periodic report.

## ARTICLE 31 — GRANT AGREEMENT SUSPENSION

### 31.1 Consortium-requested GA suspension

#### 31.1.1 Conditions and procedure

The beneficiaries may request the suspension of the grant or any part of it, if exceptional circumstances — in particular *force majeure* (see Article 35) — make implementation impossible or excessively difficult.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the date the suspension takes effect; this date may be before the date of the submission of the amendment request and
- the expected date of resumption.

The suspension will **take effect** on the day specified in the amendment.

Once circumstances allow for implementation to resume, the coordinator must immediately request another **amendment** of the Agreement to set the suspension end date, the resumption date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the amendment. This date may be before the date of the submission of the amendment request.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid. Costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant suspension are not eligible (see Article 6.3).

### 31.2 EU-initiated GA suspension

#### 31.2.1 Conditions

The granting authority may suspend the grant or any part of it, if:

- (a) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed or is suspected of having committed:
  - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
  - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions,

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submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or

(b) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant

(c) other:

(i) linked action issues: not applicable

(ii) additional GA suspension grounds: not applicable.

### 31.2.2 Procedure

Before suspending the grant, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator:

- formally notifying the intention to suspend the grant and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the suspension (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

The suspension will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent (or on a later date specified in the notification).

Once the conditions for resuming implementation of the action are met, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator a **lifting of suspension letter**, in which it will set the suspension end date and invite the coordinator to request an amendment of the Agreement to set the resumption date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the lifting of suspension letter. This date may be before the date on which the letter is sent.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid. Costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during suspension are not eligible (see Article 6.3).

The beneficiaries may not claim damages due to suspension by the granting authority (see Article 33).

Grant suspension does not affect the granting authority's right to terminate the grant or a beneficiary (see Article 32) or reduce the grant (see Article 28).

## ARTICLE 32 — GRANT AGREEMENT OR BENEFICIARY TERMINATION

### 32.1 Consortium-requested GA termination

#### 32.1.1 Conditions and procedure

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The beneficiaries may request the termination of the grant.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the date the consortium ends work on the action ('end of work date') and
- the date the termination takes effect ('termination date'); this date must be after the date of the submission of the amendment request.

The termination will **take effect** on the termination date specified in the amendment.

If no reasons are given or if the granting authority considers the reasons do not justify termination, it may consider the grant terminated improperly.

### 32.1.2 Effects

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit a **periodic report** (for the open reporting period until termination).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after the end of work are not eligible.

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

Improper termination may lead to a grant reduction (see Article 28).

After termination, the beneficiaries' obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

## 32.2 Consortium-requested beneficiary termination

### 32.2.1 Conditions and procedure

The coordinator may request the termination of the participation of one or more beneficiaries, on request of the beneficiary concerned or on behalf of the other beneficiaries.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the opinion of the beneficiary concerned (or proof that this opinion has been requested in writing)
- the date the beneficiary ends work on the action ('end of work date')

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- the date the termination takes effect ('termination date'); this date must be after the date of the submission of the amendment request.

If the termination concerns the coordinator and is done without its agreement, the amendment request must be submitted by another beneficiary (acting on behalf of the consortium).

The termination will **take effect** on the termination date specified in the amendment.

If no information is given or if the granting authority considers that the reasons do not justify termination, it may consider the beneficiary to have been terminated improperly.

### 32.2.2 Effects

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit:

- (i) a **report on the distribution of payments** to the beneficiary concerned
- (ii) a **termination report** from the beneficiary concerned, for the open reporting period until termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work, the financial statement, the explanation on the use of resources, and, if applicable, the certificate on the financial statement (CFS; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)
- (iii) a second **request for amendment** (see Article 39) with other amendments needed (e.g. reallocation of the tasks and the estimated budget of the terminated beneficiary; addition of a new beneficiary to replace the terminated beneficiary; change of coordinator, etc.).

The granting authority will calculate the amount due to the beneficiary on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after the end of work are not eligible.

The information in the termination report must also be included in the periodic report for the next reporting period (see Article 21).

If the granting authority does not receive the termination report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

If the granting authority does not receive the report on the distribution of payments within the deadline, it will consider that:

- the coordinator did not distribute any payment to the beneficiary concerned and that
- the beneficiary concerned must not repay any amount to the coordinator.

If the second request for amendment is accepted by the granting authority, the Agreement is **amended** to introduce the necessary changes (see Article 39).

If the second request for amendment is rejected by the granting authority (because it calls into question the decision awarding the grant or breaches the principle of equal treatment of applicants), the grant may be terminated (see Article 32).

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Improper termination may lead to a reduction of the grant (see Article 31) or grant termination (see Article 32).

After termination, the concerned beneficiary's obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

### **32.3 EU-initiated GA or beneficiary termination**

#### **32.3.1 Conditions**

The granting authority may terminate the grant or the participation of one or more beneficiaries, if:

- (a) one or more beneficiaries do not accede to the Agreement (see Article 40)
- (b) a change to the action or the legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation of a beneficiary is likely to substantially affect the implementation of the action or calls into question the decision to award the grant (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour)
- (c) following termination of one or more beneficiaries, the necessary changes to the Agreement (and their impact on the action) would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants
- (d) implementation of the action has become impossible or the changes necessary for its continuation would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants
- (e) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is subject to bankruptcy proceedings or similar (including insolvency, winding-up, administration by a liquidator or court, arrangement with creditors, suspension of business activities, etc.)
- (f) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is in breach of social security or tax obligations
- (g) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has been found guilty of grave professional misconduct
- (h) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed fraud, corruption, or is involved in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking
- (i) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) was created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin (or created another entity with this purpose)
- (j) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:

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- (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
- (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.)
- (k) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (extension of findings from other grants to this grant; see Article 25)
- (l) despite a specific request by the granting authority, a beneficiary does not request — through the coordinator — an amendment to the Agreement to end the participation of one of its affiliated entities or associated partners that is in one of the situations under points (d), (f), (e), (g), (h), (i) or (j) and to reallocate its tasks, or
- (m) other:
  - (i) linked action issues: not applicable
  - (ii) additional GA termination grounds: not applicable.

### 32.3.2 Procedure

Before terminating the grant or participation of one or more beneficiaries, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to terminate and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the termination and the date it will take effect (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

For beneficiary terminations, the granting authority will — at the end of the procedure — also inform the coordinator.

The termination will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent (or on a later date specified in the notification; ‘termination date’).

### 32.3.3 Effects

- (a) for **GA termination**:

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit a **periodic report** (for the last open reporting period until termination).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities

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implemented before termination takes effect (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination are not eligible.

If the grant is terminated for breach of the obligation to submit reports, the coordinator may not submit any report after termination.

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

Termination does not affect the granting authority's right to reduce the grant (see Article 28) or to impose administrative sanctions (see Article 34).

The beneficiaries may not claim damages due to termination by the granting authority (see Article 33).

After termination, the beneficiaries' obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

(b) for **beneficiary termination**:

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit:

- (i) a **report on the distribution of payments** to the beneficiary concerned
- (ii) a **termination report** from the beneficiary concerned, for the open reporting period until termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work, the financial statement, the explanation on the use of resources, and, if applicable, the certificate on the financial statement (CFS; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)
- (iii) a **request for amendment** (see Article 39) with any amendments needed (e.g. reallocation of the tasks and the estimated budget of the terminated beneficiary; addition of a new beneficiary to replace the terminated beneficiary; change of coordinator, etc.).

The granting authority will calculate the amount due to the beneficiary on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before termination takes effect (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination are not eligible.

The information in the termination report must also be included in the periodic report for the next reporting period (see Article 21).

If the granting authority does not receive the termination report within the deadline, only costs and contributions included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

If the granting authority does not receive the report on the distribution of payments within the deadline, it will consider that:

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- the coordinator did not distribute any payment to the beneficiary concerned and that
- the beneficiary concerned must not repay any amount to the coordinator.

If the request for amendment is accepted by the granting authority, the Agreement is **amended** to introduce the necessary changes (see Article 39).

If the request for amendment is rejected by the granting authority (because it calls into question the decision awarding the grant or breaches the principle of equal treatment of applicants), the grant may be terminated (see Article 32).

After termination, the concerned beneficiary's obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

### **SECTION 3 OTHER CONSEQUENCES: DAMAGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS**

#### **ARTICLE 33 — DAMAGES**

##### **33.1 Liability of the granting authority**

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the beneficiaries or to third parties as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement, including for gross negligence.

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the beneficiaries or other participants involved in the action, as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement.

##### **33.2 Liability of the beneficiaries**

The beneficiaries must compensate the granting authority for any damage it sustains as a result of the implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Agreement, provided that it was caused by gross negligence or wilful act.

The liability does not extend to indirect or consequential losses or similar damage (such as loss of profit, loss of revenue or loss of contracts), provided such damage was not caused by wilful act or by a breach of confidentiality.

#### **ARTICLE 34 — ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND OTHER MEASURES**

Nothing in this Agreement may be construed as preventing the adoption of administrative sanctions (i.e. exclusion from EU award procedures and/or financial penalties) or other public law measures, in addition or as an alternative to the contractual measures provided under this Agreement (see, for instance, Articles 135 to 145 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and Articles 4 and 7 of Regulation 2988/95<sup>21</sup>).

<sup>21</sup> Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

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## **SECTION 4 FORCE MAJEURE**

### **ARTICLE 35 — FORCE MAJEURE**

A party prevented by force majeure from fulfilling its obligations under the Agreement cannot be considered in breach of them.

‘Force majeure’ means any situation or event that:

- prevents either party from fulfilling their obligations under the Agreement,
- was unforeseeable, exceptional situation and beyond the parties’ control,
- was not due to error or negligence on their part (or on the part of other participants involved in the action), and
- proves to be inevitable in spite of exercising all due diligence.

Any situation constituting force majeure must be formally notified to the other party without delay, stating the nature, likely duration and foreseeable effects.

The parties must immediately take all the necessary steps to limit any damage due to force majeure and do their best to resume implementation of the action as soon as possible.

## **CHAPTER 6 FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **ARTICLE 36 — COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES**

#### **36.1 Forms and means of communication — Electronic management**

EU grants are managed fully electronically through the EU Funding & Tenders Portal (‘Portal’).

All communications must be made electronically through the Portal, in accordance with the Portal Terms and Conditions and using the forms and templates provided there (except if explicitly instructed otherwise by the granting authority).

Communications must be made in writing and clearly identify the grant agreement (project number and acronym).

Communications must be made by persons authorised according to the Portal Terms and Conditions. For naming the authorised persons, each beneficiary must have designated — before the signature of this Agreement — a ‘legal entity appointed representative (LEAR)’. The role and tasks of the LEAR are stipulated in their appointment letter (see Portal Terms and Conditions).

If the electronic exchange system is temporarily unavailable, instructions will be given on the Portal.

#### **36.2 Date of communication**

The sending date for communications made through the Portal will be the date and time of sending, as indicated by the time logs.

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The receiving date for communications made through the Portal will be the date and time the communication is accessed, as indicated by the time logs. Formal notifications that have not been accessed within 10 days after sending, will be considered to have been accessed (see Portal Terms and Conditions).

If a communication is exceptionally made on paper (by e-mail or postal service), general principles apply (i.e. date of sending/receipt). Formal notifications by registered post with proof of delivery will be considered to have been received either on the delivery date registered by the postal service or the deadline for collection at the post office.

If the electronic exchange system is temporarily unavailable, the sending party cannot be considered in breach of its obligation to send a communication within a specified deadline.

### **36.3 Addresses for communication**

The Portal can be accessed via the Europa website.

The address for paper communications to the granting authority (if exceptionally allowed) is the official mailing address indicated on its website.

For beneficiaries, it is the legal address specified in the Portal Participant Register.

## **ARTICLE 37 — INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT**

The provisions in the Data Sheet take precedence over the rest of the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement.

Annex 5 takes precedence over the Terms and Conditions; the Terms and Conditions take precedence over the Annexes other than Annex 5.

Annex 2 takes precedence over Annex 1.

## **ARTICLE 38 — CALCULATION OF PERIODS AND DEADLINES**

In accordance with Regulation No 1182/71<sup>22</sup>, periods expressed in days, months or years are calculated from the moment the triggering event occurs.

The day during which that event occurs is not considered as falling within the period.

‘Days’ means calendar days, not working days.

## **ARTICLE 39 — AMENDMENTS**

### **39.1 Conditions**

The Agreement may be amended, unless the amendment entails changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants.

<sup>22</sup> Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1182/71 of the Council of 3 June 1971 determining the rules applicable to periods, dates and time-limits (OJ L 124, 8/6/1971, p. 1).

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Amendments may be requested by any of the parties.

### 39.2 Procedure

The party requesting an amendment must submit a request for amendment signed directly in the Portal Amendment tool.

The coordinator submits and receives requests for amendment on behalf of the beneficiaries (see Annex 3). If a change of coordinator is requested without its agreement, the submission must be done by another beneficiary (acting on behalf of the other beneficiaries).

The request for amendment must include:

- the reasons why
- the appropriate supporting documents and
- for a change of coordinator without its agreement: the opinion of the coordinator (or proof that this opinion has been requested in writing).

The granting authority may request additional information.

If the party receiving the request agrees, it must sign the amendment in the tool within 45 days of receiving notification (or any additional information the granting authority has requested). If it does not agree, it must formally notify its disagreement within the same deadline. The deadline may be extended, if necessary for the assessment of the request. If no notification is received within the deadline, the request is considered to have been rejected.

An amendment **enters into force** on the day of the signature of the receiving party.

An amendment **takes effect** on the date of entry into force or other date specified in the amendment.

## ARTICLE 40 — ACCESSION AND ADDITION OF NEW BENEFICIARIES

### 40.1 Accession of the beneficiaries mentioned in the Preamble

The beneficiaries which are not coordinator must accede to the grant by signing the accession form (see Annex 3) directly in the Portal Grant Preparation tool, within 30 days after the entry into force of the Agreement (see Article 44).

They will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of its entry into force (see Article 44).

If a beneficiary does not accede to the grant within the above deadline, the coordinator must — within 30 days — request an amendment (see Article 39) to terminate the beneficiary and make any changes necessary to ensure proper implementation of the action. This does not affect the granting authority's right to terminate the grant (see Article 32).

### 40.2 Addition of new beneficiaries

In justified cases, the beneficiaries may request the addition of a new beneficiary.

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For this purpose, the coordinator must submit a request for amendment in accordance with Article 39. It must include an accession form (see Annex 3) signed by the new beneficiary directly in the Portal Amendment tool.

New beneficiaries will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of their accession specified in the accession form (see Annex 3).

Additions are also possible in mono-beneficiary grants.

#### **ARTICLE 41 — TRANSFER OF THE AGREEMENT**

In justified cases, the beneficiary of a mono-beneficiary grant may request the transfer of the grant to a new beneficiary, provided that this would not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants.

The beneficiary must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with

- the reasons why
- the accession form (see Annex 3) signed by the new beneficiary directly in the Portal Amendment tool and
- additional supporting documents (if required by the granting authority).

The new beneficiary will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of accession specified in the accession form (see Annex 3).

#### **ARTICLE 42 — ASSIGNMENTS OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT AGAINST THE GRANTING AUTHORITY**

The beneficiaries may not assign any of their claims for payment against the granting authority to any third party, except if expressly approved in writing by the granting authority on the basis of a reasoned, written request by the coordinator (on behalf of the beneficiary concerned).

If the granting authority has not accepted the assignment or if the terms of it are not observed, the assignment will have no effect on it.

In no circumstances will an assignment release the beneficiaries from their obligations towards the granting authority.

#### **ARTICLE 43 — APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

##### **43.1 Applicable law**

The Agreement is governed by the applicable EU law, supplemented if necessary by the law of Belgium.

Special rules may apply for beneficiaries which are international organisations (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 5).

##### **43.2 Dispute settlement**

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If a dispute concerns the interpretation, application or validity of the Agreement, the parties must bring action before the EU General Court — or, on appeal, the EU Court of Justice — under Article 272 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).

For non-EU beneficiaries (if any), such disputes must be brought before the courts of Brussels, Belgium — unless an international agreement provides for the enforceability of EU court judgements.

For beneficiaries with arbitration as special dispute settlement forum (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 5), the dispute will — in the absence of an amicable settlement — be settled in accordance with the Rules for Arbitration published on the Portal.

If a dispute concerns administrative sanctions, offsetting or an enforceable decision under Article 299 TFEU (see Articles 22 and 34), the beneficiaries must bring action before the General Court — or, on appeal, the Court of Justice — under Article 263 TFEU.

For grants where the granting authority is an EU executive agency (see Preamble), actions against offsetting and enforceable decisions must be brought against the European Commission (not against the granting authority; see also Article 22).

#### ARTICLE 44 — ENTRY INTO FORCE

The Agreement will enter into force on the day of signature by the granting authority or the coordinator, depending on which is later.

#### SIGNATURES

For the coordinator

For the granting authority

Rosalia Santoleri with ECAS id n002b9y7 signed in the Participant Portal on 04/08/2022 at 17:52:42 (transaction id SigId-137850-FXH COStdynATKtOINPPeAlaBwI8QNLczP6TVjSmzihP2UKAzzzLVffdzIH CEpt7ass4H1XuHnM5NzqpKdVpOqW8-yntOf97TTHq29yS3sozNII-q bJfCGjGikm6u4g7zzUWITv88w7fXhSxMUozcuoS3zNn9yRkuxXIOUR FolChem1sEVxxCb9QIBztJ7fnxSQ6f2). Timestamp by third party at 2022.08.04 18:52:49 CEST

Signed by Anne BURRILL with ECAS id burrian as an authorised representative on 05-08-2022 09:02:46 (transaction id SigId-140453-HxJSC092wFDBVjNzyOEnzGt0T00JzHbzcGwdJq97jzoGLVLhzyVHbtc Mc7qbq77sqznAzPzvyoZ2lf50CHY8k970-yntOf97TTHq29yS3sozNII-KAhS3A8DYVYw7gBprao9yocS1tIWtCHYaEnzGIZdpDCYBcjvqxpf faMn5TizgOAnABzoeUuEX60Lw1nGwMUs) 2022.08.05 09:02:50 CEST



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**ANNEX 1**



**Programme for Environment  
and Climate Action (LIFE)**

**Description of the action (DoA)**

**Part A**

**Part B**

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION (PART A)

### COVER PAGE

*Part A of the Description of the Action (DoA) must be completed directly on the Portal Grant Preparation screens.*

<b>PROJECT</b>	
<i>Grant Preparation (General Information screen) — Enter the info.</i>	
<b>Project number:</b>	101074547
<b>Project name:</b>	Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea
<b>Project acronym:</b>	LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM
<b>Call:</b>	LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT
<b>Topic:</b>	LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-NATURE
<b>Type of action:</b>	LIFE-PJG
<b>Service:</b>	CINEA/D/02
<b>Project starting date:</b>	first day of the month following the entry into force date
<b>Project duration:</b>	60 months

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

### Project summary

*Grant Preparation (General Information screen) — Provide an overall description of your project (including context and overall objectives, planned activities and main achievements, and expected results and impacts (on target groups, change procedures, capacities, innovation etc)). This summary should give readers a clear idea of what your project is about.*

*Use the project summary from your proposal.*

The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 promotes the recovery of the biodiversity of European natural ecosystems through extending conservation networks, preventing and reducing anthropic impacts, and restoring the degraded natural heritage. Marine Deep Reefs (DR) are ecologically relevant benthic habitats acting as CO<sub>2</sub> sinks and attracting a highly diverse associated fauna. The multiple pressures DR are currently facing (e.g., climate change, fishery and littering) make the need to protect and restore these habitats more urgent. Marine Litter (ML) can affect the health status of DR, leading to the loss of associated ecological functions. Through an innovative, sustainable approach, the LIFE DREAM Project aims at mitigating the anthropic pressure on deep sensitive habitats (DR) and promoting their protection, recovery and preservation. LIFE DREAM will comprise active intervention to aid the regeneration of DR and will provide supporting information to extend the Natura 2000 network to the deep-sea by integrating biological data on DR and ecosystems services they supply with spatial data on human activities. Active restoration (deployment of artificial structure as substrate for DR the forming-species growth) will be integrated with passive restoration activities (ML removal in correspondence of DR). The involvement of fishers and stakeholders within LIFE DREAM activities intends to enhance the impact of the project and boost a social behavior change. Following the principles of the circular economy, among the ambitions of the Project is pairing the recovery with recycling of materials at the end of their lifecycle, converting the recovered ML in 2nd generation fuel that will reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The results of LIFE DREAM would represent the baseline to extend the Natura 2000 network to the deep Mediterranean Sea and to restore deep sensitive habitats by providing best practices for DR restoration and the related costs and benefits.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### PARTICIPANTS

*Grant Preparation (Beneficiaries screen) — Enter the info.*

Number	Role	Short name	Legal name	Country	PIC
1	COO	CNR	CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE	IT	999979500
2	BEN	UNIBA	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI BARI ALDO MORO	IT	999840596
3	BEN	HCMR	HELLENIC CENTRE FOR MARINE RESEARCH	EL	999577532
4	BEN	NetEC	NET EUROPEAN CONSULTING SRLS	IT	897662154
5	BEN	ENALEIA AMKE	ENALEIA ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIREIA	EL	901798622
6	BEN	UNIVPM	UNIVERSITA POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE	IT	999866689
7	BEN	CSIC	AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS	ES	999991722
8	BEN	UNINA	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II	IT	999976590
9	BEN	REGIONE PUGLIA	REGIONE PUGLIA	IT	999523503

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<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>					
<i>Grant Preparation (Beneficiaries screen) — Enter the info.</i>					
<b>Number</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Short name</b>	<b>Legal name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>PIC</b>
10	BEN	RoT	PERIFEREIAKO TAMEIO ANAPTYKSIS PERIFEREIAS THESSALIAS	EL	892749104
11	BEN	SZN	STAZIONE ZOOLOGICA ANTON DOHRN	IT	999468310
12	BEN	FEDERPESCA	FEDERAZIONE NAZIONALE DELLA IMPRESE DI PESCA	IT	920378293
13	AP	OPP71	Organizacion de Productores Pesqueros de Almeria	ES	888517673
14	AP	UNIRO	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA TOR VERGATA	IT	999844864

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## LIST OF WORK PACKAGES

<b>Work packages</b>							
<i>Grant Preparation (Work Packages screen) — Enter the info.</i>							
Work Package No	Work Package name	Lead Beneficiary	Effort (Person-Months)	Start Month	End Month	Deliverables	
WP1	Project management and coordination	1 - CNR	46.00	1	60	D1.1 – LIFE DREAM Data Management Plan D1.2 – After-LIFE Conservation plan	
WP2	Dissemination and communication	4 - NetEC	122.00	1	60	D2.1 – Dedicated project page on the beneficiaries websites D2.2 – LIFE DREAM Communication and Dissemination plan D2.3 – Report on the activities + After-LIFE Communication and Dissemination plan	
WP3	Increasing knowledge base	7 - CSIC	82.00	1	36	D3.1 – Maps of fishing effort by gear and of maritime traffic, cross-analysis of activities, and maps of habitats, health status and ML distribution for each Project Area D3.2 – Maps of ecologically relevant areas, maps of multiple stressors and maps of spatial conflicts for each Project Area resulting from Multi-Criteria Analysis	
WP4	Restoration and conservation	6 - UNIVPM	126.00	6	30	D4.1 – Standard Data Form for each site to be proposed for Natura 2000 network D4.2 – Report on ML removal and MARS deployment (oceanographic campaigns)	
WP5	Prevention and maintenance	12 - FEDERPESCA	104.00	6	48	D5.1 – Management plans for N2K sites D5.2 – Report on fishing activities in the 4	

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<b>Work packages</b>						
<i>Grant Preparation (Work Packages screen) — Enter the info.</i>						
<b>Work Package No</b>	<b>Work Package name</b>	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	<b>Effort (Person-Months)</b>	<b>Start Month</b>	<b>End Month</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>
WP6	Monitoring and evaluation	8 - UNINA	122.00	19	60	PAs including the costs benefits analysis of fishing gears D6.1 – Data analysis to assess the socio-economic impact on the local economy and population including the evaluation of ecosystem services D6.2 – Data analysis to assess the impact of the area-based measures on DR D6.3 – Extract of the project data from the LIFE KPI web tool
WP7	Sustainability, replicability and exploitation of project results	3 - HCMR	96.00	37	60	D7.1 – LIFE DREAM Technical Protocol for ML removal and DR restoration D7.2 – Business model for replicating the circular economy experiment D7.3 – LIFE DREAM Replicability and Transferability plan

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 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022**Work package WP1 – Project management and coordination**

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. CNR
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Project management and coordination		
<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	60

**Objectives**

WP1 will concern the project management and coordination activities (e. g. meetings, coordination, project monitoring and evaluation, financial management, progress reports) and all the activities which are cross-cutting the WP such as the drafting of the Data Management plan, the After-LIFE Conservation plan, etc.

The objectives of this WP are to offer effective and efficient:

- Project coordination and monitoring
- Technical coordination
- Financial and administrative management

**Description**

The activities of this WP are integrated in planned tasks:

## T.1.1 Project coordination and monitoring.

Participants: CNR (COO), UNIVPM (BEN), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), SZN (BEN), FEDERPESCA (BEN), ENALEIA (BEN), NetEC (BEN), RoA (BEN), RoT (BEN).

Description: this task will provide a top level management of the LIFE DREAM Project, ensuring a sound, effective and efficient management of the whole project in order to coordinate all the beneficiaries, the associated partners, and the entities supporting the LIFE DREAM Project. The task will be led by the CNR (Coordinating Beneficiary - CB) in the person of the Project Coordinator (PC) who will:

- I. monitor that objectives, deliverables, tasks and reports are efficiently and successfully met on time, within the limits of the resources budgeted;
- II. facilitate communication and integration among beneficiaries, associated partners and supporters;
- III. provide effective reporting and communication within LIFE DREAM Project and the European Commission (EC) and other external actors;
- IV. support the technical, administrative and financial management;
- V. support the beneficiaries and the LIFE DREAM Project committees/boards to prepare and execute major meetings and obligations.

## T.1.2 Technical coordination.

Participants: CNR (COO), UNIVPM (BEN), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), SZN (BEN), FEDERPESCA (BEN), ENALEIA (BEN), NetEC (BEN), RoA (BEN), RoT (BEN).

Description: this task will be responsible for managing the developments of the various technical activities in the project (e.g. oceanographic campaigns, MARS and DSOS deployment, Prototype implementation) and will be led by the Technical Project Manager (TPM).

## T.1.3 Financial and administrative management.

Participants: CNR (COO), UNIVPM (BEN), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), SZN (BEN), FEDERPESCA (BEN), ENALEIA (BEN), NetEC (BEN), RoA (BEN), RoT (BEN).

Description: this task will cover all aspects of the project administration, quality assurance and configuration management, as well as the assessment and follow-up of project deliverables. It also covers all legal and financial issues, effort monitoring, cost statement collection and analysis, related statistics, interim payment coordination and transfer, budget follow-up and liaison with partners as needed. It will be led by the Administrative officer (AO) and the Financial manager (FM).

**Work package WP2 – Dissemination and communication**

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	4. NetEC
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Dissemination and communication		

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<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	60
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### Objectives

In the framework of WP2, the beneficiaries and all the other participants will promote the project activities, outcomes and deliverables through:

- the production of a set of tools targeted for this purpose: a website, a marketing plan, a project identity book, brochures, short video, press releases, a digital pack, the booklet, noticeboards for conference and tailored events, a final conference, the Layman's report, and finally, the After-LIFE Dissemination plan
- the establishment of a network with other LIFE and EU funded projects
- the creation of a stakeholders network (CRM tool) directly engaged in the project through awareness raising and training activities
- the promotion of stakeholders local experience

### Description

The activities of this WP are integrated in planned tasks:

#### T.2.1 Dissemination strategy.

Participants: CNR (COO), UNIVPM (BEN), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), SZN (BEN), FEDERPESCA (BEN), ENALEIA (BEN), NetEC (BEN), RoA (BEN), RoT (BEN), OPP71 (AP), UNEP/MAP (in kind contribution), FB (in kind contribution), OCEANA (in kind contribution), RoC (in kind contribution)

Description: this task will develop all the tools and activities fundamental to i) disseminate the project results, ii) encourage transfer and replicability, iii) inform policy-makers at local, regional and EU levels about best practices, and iv) facilitate the networking process. It will foresee the dissemination of project outcomes through tailored communication tools produced for each stakeholder segment and general public: a website, a marketing plan, a project identity book, brochures, short video, press releases, a digital pack, the booklet, noticeboards for conference and tailored events, a final conference, the Layman's report, and finally, the After-LIFE Dissemination plan.

#### T.2.2 Networking with other LIFE and EU-funded related projects

Participants: CNR (COO), UNIVPM (BEN), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), SZN (BEN), FEDERPESCA (BEN), ENALEIA (BEN), OPP71 (AP)

Description: this task will create and maintain connections with LIFE and EU-funded projects and initiatives concerning the topics covered in the LIFE DREAM Project through the participation in project meetings and dedicated special events. It will allow the project to collaborate with similar initiatives promoted by programs such as LIFE +, H2020 and other relevant programs. A special focus will be on projects funded for removing, reducing, monitoring and preventing ML input into the sea as well as those focusing on restoration of DR habitats.

#### T.2.3 Stakeholder involvement

Participants: CNR (COO), UNIVPM (BEN), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), SZN (BEN), FEDERPESCA (BEN), ENALEIA (BEN), NetEC (BEN), RoA (BEN), RoT (BEN), OOP71 (AP), UNEP/MAP (in kind contribution), RoC (in kind contribution)

Description: this task aims at the identification and involvement of stakeholders through 3 phases: 1) Recognition of all potential stakeholders, grouped into "engaged" and "involved"; 2) Involvement of stakeholders to be included in the CRM (Customer relationship management) system to ensure effective interaction; 3) Engagement of stakeholders by means of awareness meetings, questionnaires and interviews, and training workshops. Nine awareness meetings, for a duration of 2 days each will be organized in the following ports: Monopoli (Italy), Mola di Bari (Italy), Procida (Italy), Ischia (Italy), Salerno (Italy), Almeria (Spain), Adra (Spain), Kymi (Greece), Volos (Greece) involving at least 144 fishers.

## Work package WP3 – Increasing knowledge base

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP3	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	7. CSIC
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Increasing knowledge base		
<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	36

### Objectives

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WP3 will be dedicated to increasing the knowledge base in the PAs by the following actions:

- review, collection and integration of all the spatial information about DR and human activities already available
- delivery of detailed maps about fishing activity, maritime traffic, ML distribution maps
- production of thematic maps, such as bathymetric, geomorphological, substrate, and DR distribution and health status
- analysis of the spatial maps in a multi-criteria context

#### Description

The activities of this WP are integrated in planned tasks:

##### T.3.1 Data review, collection, integration and sharing

Participants: CNR (COO), UNIVPM (BEN), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), SZN (BEN).  
Description: this task will set the base of knowledge (geodatabase) for the PAs. It will provide a sharing point (the geoportal) where partners can visualize and access the collected spatial data, and will publish web services for the integration of the LIFE DREAM results in other platforms (OGS services and metadata). Finally, this action will draft the LIFE DREAM data policy, a crucial tool for data sharing and reuse inside and outside the project partnership.

##### T.3.2 Mapping activities

Participants: CNR (COO), UNIVPM (BEN), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), SZN (BEN), UNIRO (AP).

Description: starting from the high resolution data acquired during the oceanographic campaigns in each Project Area, this task will produce thematic maps, such as bathymetry, geomorphology, seafloor substrate, DR distribution and health status in the PAs. Concerning the main human activities insisting in the PAs, this task plans to purchase AIS/VMS data for delivering detailed maps of fishing activity by gears as well as of maritime traffic to cross-analysed human activities and related impacts. The map of ML on the seafloor will be inferred by using commercial fishery data coming from the MEDITS projects and the F4L activities.

##### T.3.3 Multi-criteria analysis

Participants: CNR (COO), UNIVPM (BEN), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), SZN (BEN).  
Description: this task will integrate all the results of T3.1 and T3.2 and will analyse the spatial maps in a multi-criteria context. The scenarios are crucial for producing a map of multiple stressors and for identifying the map of conflict between the conservation issue and the human uses. It is also necessary to identify areas deserving protection with the aim to propose the most efficient coverage of the new deep-sea N2K sites in Italy and to integrate the management plans of the already existing N2K sites in Greece and Spain (T4.3).

### Work package WP4 – Restoration and conservation

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP4	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	6. UNIVPM
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Restoration and conservation		
<b>Start Month</b>	6	<b>End Month</b>	30

#### Objectives

Within the WP4, active and passive restoration actions will be performed on DR to reduce human impacts and boost the process of habitat recovery:

- Passive restoration by the ML removal in specific sites inside the PAs
- Active restoration by the deployment of 3D-printed Modular Artificial Reef Structure (MARS) in specific sites
- Enlargement of the N2K network in the deep-sea environment

#### Description

The activities of this WP are integrated in planned tasks:

##### T.4.1 Passive restoration: marine litter removal.

Participants: CNR (COO), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), SZN (BEN).

Description: this task will contribute in reaching the objective of facilitating the DR restoration for the Project Areas through the mitigation of the impact due to ML. It aims at removing ML from DR sites by means of Remote Operated

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Vehicles on board of research vessels. The task will also assess benefits and costs of the ML removal operations to be included in the LIFE DREAM Technical Protocol (LDTP).

T.4.2 Active restoration: MARS concept and deployment.

Participants: CNR (COO), UNIVPM (BEN), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), SZN (BEN), RoT (BEN).

Description: this task will aim at the conceptualization and development of 3D-printed MARS for DR restoration and their deployment in areas selected among those most damaged by ML. The task will develop underwater farms/nurseries where coral species can be grown and eventually be relocated back to natural reef structure. The deployment will be operated during the same oceanographic campaigns planned for T3.2 (mapping) and T4.1 (ML removal).

T.4.3 Designation, enlargement or update of N2K sites for DR.

Participants: CNR (COO), UNIVPM (BEN), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), SZN (BEN), RoA (BEN), RoT (BEN), RoC (in kind contribution), MAC (in kind contribution), MRDF (in kind contribution), MEE (in kind contribution), FB (in kind contribution).

Description: this task will play an important role to reach the objective of enlarging the N2K network in the deep-sea environment, ensuring the long-term survival of charismatic and crucial habitats, such as the DR targeted by the LIFE DREAM Project. The proposal of new N2K sites or the enlargement of already existing ones in Italy will be made through the submission of a Standard Data Form to be completed in all its parts according to the scientific outputs of the LIFE DREAM Project. In Greece and Spain where the N2K sites are already established, this task will deal with the management authority to outline a proper management plan tailored to the new knowledge base.

### Work package WP5 – Prevention and maintenance

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP5	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	12. FEDERPESCA
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Prevention and maintenance		
<b>Start Month</b>	6	<b>End Month</b>	48

#### Objectives

WP5 will conjugate recycling of difficult feedstock with value generation within a perfect circular economy concept activating a process of self-sustaining depollution by:

- building a Prototype able to recycle ML and produce fuel for marine transportation.
- engaging fishers a ML provider (coming from their daily activities of from F4L activities in the PAs) to be recycled with the Prototype and giving in return marine fuel for their activities.
- increasing the awareness of fishers (the main sea users) about the importance of their contribution.
- exploring the life cycle of the fishing gear (considered as the most common litter types in the sea) through a cost/benefits analysis considering different type of gears, the GFCM Recommendation, and the local fishers perception.

#### Description

The activities of this WP are integrated in planned tasks:

T.5.1 Prototype for marine litter recycling.

Participants: CNR (COO), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), FEDERPESCA (BEN).

Subcontractors: CNR-ISMAR will subcontract the conceptualization and implementation of the Prototype for ML recycling.

Description: this task will scale up and improve the low-temperature pyrolysis Prototype developed in the framework of marGnet project (<https://www.margnet.eu>) in terms of capacity throughout keeping the marine fuel (Marine Gasoil and Marine Diesel oil) as the main desired products. All the ML recovered by oceanographic campaigns (T4.1) and F4L activities (T5.2) will be recycled by means of the Prototype.

T.5.2 Fishers involvement in the circular economy experiment.

Participants: CNR (COO), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), FEDERPESCA (BEN), ENALEIA (BEN), OPP71 (AP), RoA (BEN), RoT (BEN), RoC (in kind contribution), Monopoli Municipality (in kind contribution).

Description: this task will involve fishers operating in F4L activities in the proximity of the PAs in a circular economy experiment. The aims are i) the recovery of ML on the seafloor in order to prevent the further accumulation of ML in the

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PAAs, and ii) the recycling of the plastic fraction of ML recovered by means of the Prototype (developed in the T5.1), iii) starting a change of behaviour towards the reduction of by-catch of deep corals and iv) the establishment of a “virtuous circle” bringing ecological but also economic benefits<sup>2</sup>. Fishers involvement will be guaranteed by the synergy between F4L activities and local cooperatives and organizations dealing with fishers and marine pollution. We plan to engage almost 144 fishers for 320 days in 9 harbours, the number should increase thanks to the dissemination and awareness events (T2.3) about: i) the damage caused by fishing gears left at sea and entangled on the reef, ii) the possibility to prevent marine pollution from waste, iii) responsible waste management practices (fishing gear supply chain) (T5.3), and iv) the need to protect this charismatic habitat (T5.4).

T.5.3 Responsible waste management practice.  
 Participants: CNR (COO), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), FEDERPESCA (BEN), ENALEIA (BEN), OPP71 (AP).  
 Subcontractors: ENALEIA will subcontract the Costs Benefits analysis of fishing gears Life Cycle.  
 Description: this task will estimate the Costs and Benefits for the key players of the fishing gears supply chain, namely manufacturers, assemblers or netting companies, suppliers and end users (fishers), by using Cost and Benefits found in the literature and the results of questionnaires (WP2). Different types of gears, meeting different stakeholders’ needs, will be considered. Moreover, in the analysis we will consider the costs and benefits derived from the implementation of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Recommendation on the regional marking of fishing gear (GFCM/42/2018/11).

T.5.4 Management plans and regulated areas.  
 Participants: CNR (COO), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), SZN (BEN), RoA (BEN), RoT (BEN), RoC (in kind contribution), Monopoli Municipality (in kind contribution).  
 Description: Maps and scenarios (including areas of conflicts between the conservations measures and the human uses) produced in the framework of the WP3 will be used for drafting a management plan for the following targeted N2K sites: SAC ESZZ16003 “Sur de Almeria-Seco de los Olivos”, SAC GR1430004 - Ethniko Thalassio Parko Alonnisou – Voreion sporadon, Anatoliki Skopelos, IT9120009 “Posidonieto San Vito - Barletta”, the Bari Canyon and the Dohrn Canyon to be proposed and designated. the proposed or enlarged N2K sites in Italy, and to support the management plans in Greece and Spain, where a N2K site for DR already exists. The plans will include zones with regulations to limit fishery (at least trawling) and reduce fishery impact on target sites in order to avoid that coral bycatch continues. The adoption of these plans is ensured by the end of the project through T7.6 and will increase the impact of the project, guarantee the long-term continuation of the project results and thus the sustainability of the investment.

**Work package WP6 – Monitoring and evaluation**

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP6	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	8. UNINA
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Monitoring and evaluation		
<b>Start Month</b>	19	<b>End Month</b>	60

**Objectives**

WP6 will assess and monitor the effectiveness of the measures adopted by the LIFE DREAM Project on DR and local economy in the 4 PAs and, more in general, the project impact. The evaluation will concern data coming from:

- the deep-sea observatory system, in particular videos and images of MARS and DR sites
- the submission of questionnaires and interview surveying the socio-economic impact on the local economy and population
- the compilation of the Key Perform Indicators (KPI) reporting the project impact

**Description**

The activities of this WP are integrated in planned tasks:

T.6.1 Monitoring of the health status of DR.  
 Participants: CNR (COO), UNIVPM (BEN), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), SZN (BEN), RoT (BEN), MNPANS (in kind contribution), EMSO Network (in kind contribution), EMSO SSA (in kind contribution).  
 Description: this task will monitor and assess DR health status and the impact of ML removal and MARS deployment (e.g. the improvement in the conditions and dimensions of structuring species, the increase in biodiversity of associated species, and the reduction of ML and its relative physical damages). The monitoring during and after the LIFE DREAM

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Project will be guaranteed by the settlement of ad hoc DSOS in the PAs to be included in the Joint Research Unit activities of EMSO Italia (Bari Canyon and Dohrn Canyon), into the MSFD monitoring plan in Spain, and in the management plan of the NMPANS in Greece.

T.6.2 Monitoring of the socio-economic impact on the local economy and population.

Participants: CNR (COO), UNIVPM (BEN), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), SZN (BEN), FEDERPESCA (BEN), ENALEIA (BEN), OPP71 (AP), RoA (BEN), RoT (BEN), RoC (in kind contribution).

Description: this task will monitor the impact of the project activities on local economies and coastal residents, focusing on getting fishers actively engaged. The task will assess the fishers' involvement using the ad hoc APP and the socio-economic impact on the local economy and population by means of tailored questionnaires and interviews.

T.6.3 Project impact monitoring and evaluation reporting.

Participants: CNR (COO), UNIVPM (BEN), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), SZN (BEN).

Description: this task will use the data collected in the framework of the T6.1 and T6.2 to monitor and assess the effectiveness of project impact. The assessment will be inferred from the variations in the LIFE Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) (see paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2) during the lifespan of the project and 5 years after its end.

### Work package WP7 – Sustainability, replicability and exploitation of project results

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP7	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	3. HCMR
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Sustainability, replicability and exploitation of project results		
<b>Start Month</b>	37	<b>End Month</b>	60

#### Objectives

WP7 will replicate, transfer and scale-up the knowledge acquired on ML removal and DR restoration in different geographic regions and contexts by:

- drafting a technical protocol for the replication of the area-based measures to decision makers/competent authorities and sea users
- developing a business model for the replication of the circular economy experiment
- scale up the area-based measures to shallow coralligenous reef in the Alonissos Underwater Museum and in the south Mediterranean Sea
- drafting a Replicability and Transferability plan to exploit the LIFE DREAM Project outcomes and solutions also after the project end

#### Description

The activities of this WP are integrated in planned tasks:

T.7.1 Up-scale the project area-based measures.

Participants: CNR (COO), UNIVPM (BEN), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), SZN (BEN), FEDERPESCA (BEN), ENALEIA (BEN), OPP71 (AP).

Description: this task will draft the LIFE DREAM Technical Protocol (LDTP), necessary to replicate and transfer the knowledge acquired on ML removal, DR restoration through MARS and the use of the Prototype. It will include a set of guidelines for stakeholders and will ensure the sustainability of the project area-based measures in terms of replicability and transferability in other geographical areas and contexts.

T.7.2 Replicate the circular economy experiment.

Participants: CNR (COO), UNIVPM (BEN), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), RoA (BEN), RoT (BEN), RoC (in kind contribution), MM (in kind contribution).

Subcontracting: CNR will make a subcontract for the development of the Business model.

Description: this task will develop a Business Club that will promote the adoption of a fully operational Business Model on ML removal and their subsequent reuse and recycling, according to the project outcomes and in line with the European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy. The Business Model will address existing challenges in order to promote environmentally friendly and financially viable solutions to the ML problem and will be promote thought a dedicated event with i) stakeholders involved in circular economy business models from the LIFE DREAM stakeholders network,

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ii) stakeholders from other areas of Europe where such business models have also evolved and good practices have emerged, and iii) high level organizations and Union for the Mediterranean.

#### T.7.3 Pilot action in shallow waters.

Participants: CNR (COO), HCMR (BEN), RoT (BEN), MNPANS (in kind contribution).

Description: this task will scale-up the LIFE DREAM Project approach in a shallow environment by deploying MARS and a submerged observatory system within the MNPANS in a properly selected area that will include coralligenous reef of high biodiversity and aesthetic value which are of significant importance to Blue Growth actions. It will also show to stakeholders and the general public the dissemination of restoration efforts of coralligenous reef in the MNPANS fostering the replication of LIFE DREAM restoration solutions and will demonstrate their effectiveness in different contexts.

#### T.7.4 Pilot action in the south part of the Mediterranean Sea.

Participants: CNR (COO), HCMR (BEN), UNEP/MAP (In kind contribution).

Description: this task will be implemented in collaboration with UNEP/MAP in south Mediterranean countries to promote effective methods and solutions that will emerge from LIFE DREAM to these areas. This will be feasible thanks to the synergies between the LIFE DREAM and projects already active in the area and coordinated by UNEP/MAP dealing with ML prevention, reduction measures, and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP). The Prototype will be demonstrated and tested in selected locations where fishing activities will be carried out by UNEP/MAP in the framework of the EU-funded ML MED II project. In this regard the circular economy approach fostered by LIFE DREAM and the most important tangible results and joint ventures will be demonstrated in the south part of the Mediterranean basin.

#### T.7.5 Up-scale the project results and solutions.

Participants: CNR (COO), UNIVPM (BEN), HCMR (BEN), CSIC (BEN), UNIBA (BEN), UNINA (BEN), SZN (BEN), FEDERPESCA (BEN), ENALEIA (BEN), OPP71 (AP).

Description: this task will draft the Replicability and Transferability describing the potential for the LIFE DREAM results to be replicated in the same or other sectors or places highlighting the favourable factors and the limits for the replication. It will consist in i) directly involve the concerned stakeholders from other regions of the 3 LIFE DREAM partner countries and in countries of the southern Mediterranean Sea areas; ii) elaborate an analysis of how the proposed solution or method might be applied in other geographic areas, iii) studies regarding the physical identification of sites and actors for replicability and transferability.

#### T.7.6 Adoption of project results and solutions.

Participants: CNR (COO), RoA, (BEN), RoC (in kind contribution), RoT (BEN), MNPANS (in kind contribution), MAC (in kind contribution), MM (in kind contribution), MRDF (in kind contribution), MEE (in kind contribution), FB (in kind contribution).

Description: this task aims at formalizing the adoption of project results through the following activities:

a) designations of 2 new N2K sites (Bari Canyon and Dohrn Canyon) and the enlargement of SAC IT9120009 "Posidonio San Vito - Barletta". The first step will be the collection of relevant information about habitats (Annex 1 Habitat Directive) and species (Annex 2 of Habitat Directive) from the scientific partners (Task 3.1, 3.2), the second step will include the completion of the SDF (Task 4.3) by the Italian competent authorities (the Region of Campania for the Dohrn Canyon, the Region of Apulia for the SAC IT9120009 "Posidonio San Vito - Barletta" and the Ministry for Ecological Transition for the Bari Canyon located outside the territorial waters), the third step will be the designation of the new N2K sites and the enlargement of the IT9120009 by the Ministry of the ecological transition (see letter of support from MAC);

b) adoption of guidelines and technical protocol for marine litter removal and deep reef restoration (LDTP) by the Ministry of Ecological Transition for Italy, the Hellenic Republic Ministry of Rural Development and Food - Directorate General for Fisheries and the Hellenic Republic Ministry of Environmental and Energy for Greece, the Fundación Biodiversidad from the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge for Spain. These competent authorities are responsible for the implementation of the European Directives dealing with conservation and restoration such as the MSFD and will foster the adoption of LIFE DREAM guidelines and technical protocol. A bilateral technical meeting will be organized for each country with the respective competent authorities showing the benefits of the LDTP and collecting the expression of interest about the inclusion of the LIFE DREAM guidelines and best practises within national legislation. All actions taken to adopt the LDTP will be included in the MS18 and presented during the final conference;

c) signing of MoU for the adoption of the management plans drafted for the N2K sites with the competent authorities. For Italy the Region of Apulia, the Region of Campania and the Ministry of Ecological Transition, for Greece the Hellenic Republic Ministry of Rural Development and Food - Directorate General for Fisheries, the Hellenic Republic Ministry of Environmental and Energy, the Region of Thessaly and the The National Marine Park of Alonissos Northern Sporades;

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for Spain the Fundación Biodiversidad from the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge.

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**STAFF EFFORT**

<b>Staff effort per participant</b>									
<i>Grant Preparation (Work packages - Effort screen) — Enter the info.</i>									
<b>Participant</b>	<b>WP1</b>	<b>WP2</b>	<b>WP3</b>	<b>WP4</b>	<b>WP5</b>	<b>WP6</b>	<b>WP7</b>	<b>Total Person-Months</b>	
1 - CNR	14.00	21.00	28.00	28.00	21.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	140.00
2 - UNIBA	3.00	7.00	10.00	16.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	66.00
3 - HCMR	3.00	3.00	5.00	10.00	5.00	10.00	16.00	16.00	52.00
4 - NetEC	1.00	19.00							20.00
5 - ENALEIA AMKE	3.00	14.00			34.00	7.00	10.00	10.00	68.00
6 - UNIVPM	7.00	20.00	4.00	24.00		30.00	4.00	4.00	89.00
7 - CSIC	5.00	14.00	18.00	14.00	14.00	17.00	10.00	10.00	92.00
8 - UNINA	2.00	3.00	5.00	5.00	3.00	10.00	3.00	3.00	31.00
9 - REGIONE PUGLIA	1.00	1.00		3.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	8.00
10 - RoT	1.00	4.00		4.00	1.00	4.00	7.00	7.00	21.00
11 - SZN	4.00	8.00	12.00	22.00		16.00	18.00	18.00	80.00
12 - FEDERPESCA	2.00	8.00			15.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	31.00
<b>Total Person-Months</b>	46.00	122.00	82.00	126.00	104.00	122.00	96.00	96.00	698.00

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## LIST OF DELIVERABLES

<b>Deliverables</b>						
<i>Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.</i>						
<i>The labels used mean:</i>						
<i>Public — fully open (🚩 automatically posted online)</i>						
<i>Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement</i>						
<i>EU classified — RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision <a href="#">2015.444</a></i>						
<b>Deliverable No</b>	<b>Deliverable Name</b>	<b>Work Package No</b>	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	<b>Due Date (month)</b>
D1.1	LIFE DREAM Data Management Plan	WP1	1 - CNR	R — Document, report	PU - Public	12
D1.2	After-LIFE Conservation plan	WP1	1 - CNR	R — Document, report	PU - Public	60
D2.1	Dedicated project page on the beneficiaries websites	WP2	1 - CNR	DEC — Websites, patent filings, videos, etc	PU - Public	6
D2.2	LIFE DREAM Communication and Dissemination plan	WP2	6 - UNIVPM	R — Document, report	PU - Public	12
D2.3	Report on the activities + After-LIFE Communication and Dissemination plan	WP2	4 - NetEC	R — Document, report	PU - Public	60
D3.1	Maps of fishing effort by gear and of maritime traffic, cross-analysis of activities, and maps of habitats, health status and ML distribution for each Project Area	WP3	2 - UNIBA	R — Document, report	PU - Public	18
D3.2	Maps of ecologically relevant areas, maps of multiple stressors and maps of spatial conflicts for each Project Area resulting from Multi-Criteria Analysis	WP3	8 - UNINA	R — Document, report	PU - Public	20
D4.1	Standard Data Form for each site to be proposed for Natura 2000 network	WP4	9 - REGIONE PUGLIA	R — Document, report	PU - Public	22

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<b>Deliverables</b>						
<i>Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.</i>						
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Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month)
D4.2	Report on ML removal and MARS deployment (oceanographic campaigns)	WP4	1 - CNR	R — Document, report	PU - Public	30
D5.1	Management plans for N2K sites	WP5	8 - UNINA	R — Document, report	PU - Public	30
D5.2	Report on fishing activities in the 4 PAs including the costs benefits analysis of fishing gears	WP5	5 - ENALEIA AMKE	R — Document, report	PU - Public	48
D6.1	Data analysis to assess the socio-economic impact on the local economy and population including the evaluation of ecosystem services	WP6	6 - UNIVPM	R — Document, report	PU - Public	36
D6.2	Data analysis to assess the impact of the area-based measures on DR	WP6	7 - CSIC	R — Document, report	PU - Public	48
D6.3	Extract of the project data from the LIFE KPI web tool	WP6	1 - CNR	R — Document, report	PU - Public	60
D7.1	LIFE DREAM Technical Protocol for ML removal and DR restoration	WP7	11 - SZN	R — Document, report	PU - Public	48
D7.2	Business model for replicating the circular economy experiment	WP7	1 - CNR	R — Document, report	PU - Public	48
D7.3	LIFE DREAM Replicability and Transferability plan	WP7	3 - HCMR	R — Document, report	PU - Public	60

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 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022**Deliverable D1.1 – LIFE DREAM Data Management Plan**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. CNR
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	LIFE DREAM Data Management Plan		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	12	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP1

**Description**

A living document including: the generation of data, data access provisions or curation policies, attainment of tasks, relevant practices, etc.  
The document will be in English and under CC-BY license to allow a broad re-use.

**Deliverable D1.2 – After-LIFE Conservation plan**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. CNR
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	After-LIFE Conservation plan		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	60	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP1

**Description**

After-LIFE Conservation plan.  
The document will be an electronic file in English.

**Deliverable D2.1 – Dedicated project page on the beneficiaries websites**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D2.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. CNR
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Dedicated project page on the beneficiaries websites		
<b>Type</b>	DEC — Websites, patent filings, videos, etc	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	6	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP2

**Description**

Webpage on the beneficiaries websites or social media accounts presenting the project and including: project summary, coordinator contact details, list of participants, European flag and funding statement [and special logo] and project results.

**Deliverable D2.2 – LIFE DREAM Communication and Dissemination plan**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D2.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	6. UNIVPM
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	LIFE DREAM Communication and Dissemination plan		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	12	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP2

**Description**

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Document setting out the objectives, key messaging, target audiences, communication channels, social media plan, planned budget, responsables, and relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluation.

### Deliverable D2.3 – Report on the activities + After-LIFE Communication and Dissemination plan

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D2.3	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	4. NetEC
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Report on the activities + After-LIFE Communication and Dissemination plan		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	60	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP2

#### Description

Report on communication and dissemination activities and After-LIFE plan with the programme for subsequent post-project dissemination activities.

### Deliverable D3.1 – Maps of fishing effort by gear and of maritime traffic, cross-analysis of activities, and maps of habitats, health status and ML distribution for each Project Area

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D3.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	2. UNIBA
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Maps of fishing effort by gear and of maritime traffic, cross-analysis of activities, and maps of habitats, health status and ML distribution for each Project Area		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	18	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP3

#### Description

Thematic maps

### Deliverable D3.2 – Maps of ecologically relevant areas, maps of multiple stressors and maps of spatial conflicts for each Project Area resulting from Multi-Criteria Analysis

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D3.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	8. UNINA
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Maps of ecologically relevant areas, maps of multiple stressors and maps of spatial conflicts for each Project Area resulting from Multi-Criteria Analysis		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	20	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP3

#### Description

Thematic maps

### Deliverable D4.1 – Standard Data Form for each site to be proposed for Natura 2000 network

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D4.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	9. REGIONE PUGLIA
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Standard Data Form for each site to be proposed for Natura 2000 network		

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<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	22	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP4

<b>Description</b>
Documents prepared by the scientific communities and submitted by the competent authority proposing the establishment of the new Italian N2K sites and the enlargement of IT9120009.

### Deliverable D4.2 – Report on ML removal and MARS deployment (oceanographic campaigns)

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D4.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. CNR
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Report on ML removal and MARS deployment (oceanographic campaigns)		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	30	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP4

<b>Description</b>
Report concerning the multidisciplinary oceanographic campaigns during which the area-based measures were carried out in the 4 PAs.

### Deliverable D5.1 – Management plans for N2K sites

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D5.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	8. UNINA
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Management plans for N2K sites		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	30	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP5

<b>Description</b>
Report including the draft management plan for the N2K sites aiming at reducing the fishery impact on DR.

### Deliverable D5.2 – Report on fishing activities in the 4 PAs including the costs benefits analysis of fishing gears

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D5.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	5. ENALEIA AMKE
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Report on fishing activities in the 4 PAs including the costs benefits analysis of fishing gears		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	48	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP5

<b>Description</b>
Report on the ML recovered from fishers, the fuel produced by means of the Prototype, and the results of the costs benefits analysis on fishing gears.

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### Deliverable D6.1 – Data analysis to assess the socio-economic impact on the local economy and population including the evaluation of ecosystem services

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D6.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	6. UNIVPM
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Data analysis to assess the socio-economic impact on the local economy and population including the evaluation of ecosystem services		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	36	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP6

<b>Description</b>
Report on the evaluation of the socio-economic impact on the local economy and population.

### Deliverable D6.2 – Data analysis to assess the impact of the area-based measures on DR

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D6.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	7. CSIC
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Data analysis to assess the impact of the area-based measures on DR		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	48	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP6

<b>Description</b>
Report on the monitoring and measurement of the effectiveness of the LIFE DREAM area-based measures on DR.

### Deliverable D6.3 – Extract of the project data from the LIFE KPI web tool

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D6.3	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. CNR
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Extract of the project data from the LIFE KPI web tool		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	60	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP6

<b>Description</b>
Report on the Key Performance Indicators from extracted from the project data from the LIFE KPI web tool (month 9 and end of the project).

### Deliverable D7.1 – LIFE DREAM Technical Protocol for ML removal and DR restoration

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D7.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	11. SZN
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	LIFE DREAM Technical Protocol for ML removal and DR restoration		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	48	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP7

<b>Description</b>
LIFE DREAM Technical Protocol for ML removal and DR restoration. The document will be an hands-on manual, ca. 50 pages long drafted in english.

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 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022**Deliverable D7.2 – Business model for replicating the circular economy experiment**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D7.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1. CNR
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Business model for replicating the circular economy experiment		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	48	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP7

**Description**

Business Model for the exploitation of the Prototype and the replication of the circular economy experiment. The document will be an hands-on manual drafted in english, italian, spanish and greek.

**Deliverable D7.3 – LIFE DREAM Replicability and Transferability plan**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D7.3	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	3. HCMR
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	LIFE DREAM Replicability and Transferability plan		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	60	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP7

**Description**

Replicability and transferability plan for the exploitation and scale-up of the area-based measures in other geographical areas and contexts also after the project end.

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**LIST OF MILESTONES**

<b>Milestones</b>						
<i>Grant Preparation (Milestones screen) — Enter the info.</i>						
<b>Milestone No</b>	<b>Milestone Name</b>	<b>Work Package No</b>	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Due Date (month)</b>	
1	Publication of LIFE DREAM Project website	WP2	4-NetEC	Working URL dedicated to the project website.	6	
2	Population of the CRM database	WP2	6-UNIVPM	Publication of the CRM database document on the project website.	18	
3	Population of the LIFE DREAM Geodatabase	WP3	1-CNR	Inclusion of dedicated maps with principal thematic layers in the document.	6	
4	Publication of the LIFE DREAM Geoportal and OGC web services on the LIFE DREAM webpage	WP3	1-CNR	Working URL dedicated to the Geoportal.	6	
5	Purchasing of AIS data + Collection of VMS data	WP3	2-UNIBA	Releases of integrated VMS/AIS metadata (gridded effort).	6	
6	Set-up of methodological details for VMS/AIS/MCDA integration/analysis and for cross-analysis of human activities and related impacts	WP3	2-UNIBA	Release of the document.	12	
7	Definition of Multi-Criteria Analysis conceptual model	WP3	8-UNINA	Release of the document.	12	
8	Concept of 3D printed MARS	WP4	6-UNIVPM	Release of the document.	12	
9	Realization of ceramic modules	WP4	6-UNIVPM	Release of the ceramic modules.	18	
10	Submission of environmental permit demand and Submission of fuel fabrication license demand	WP5	1-CNR	Release of the document.	6	
11	Prototype successful test run	WP5	1-CNR	Release of the Prototype.	24	

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<b>Milestones</b>						
<i>Grant Preparation (Milestones screen) — Enter the info.</i>						
<b>Milestone No</b>	<b>Milestone Name</b>	<b>Work Package No</b>	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Due Date (month)</b>	
12	Assemblage of the deep-sea observatory system (DSOS)	WP6	1-CNR	Release of the document.	18	
13	Release of the APP for monitoring	WP6	4-NetEC	Working APP to be downloaded and installed.	24	
14	Submission of questionnaires	WP6	5-ENALEIA AMKE	Release of the questionnaire.	24	
15	Designation and/or enlargement of N2K sites in Italy	WP7	1-CNR	Release of the document.	40	
16	Deployment of MARS and DSOS in the Region of Thessaly	WP7	10-RoT	Release of the document.	54	
17	Demonstration of LDTP in the south Mediterranean Sea	WP7	3-HCMR	Release of the document.	54	
18	Reporting on actions for LDTP adoption in each country	WP7	1-CNR	Release of the document.	57	
19	Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the adoption of the management plans	WP7	1-CNR	Release of the document.	57	

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**LIST OF CRITICAL RISKS**

<b>Critical risks &amp; risk management strategy</b>			
<i>Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.</i>			
<b>Risk number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Work Package No(s)</b>	<b>Proposed Mitigation Measures</b>
1	<p>Planning of the project and definition of the activities: 9.1. No fulfilment of the execution of certain activities by an associated partner. 9.2. Loss of individuals making up the staff working on the project. 9.3. Delays in the state of advancement f expenses for the defined actions. 9.4. Costs no corresponding to the LIFE+ Common provisions. 9.5. Delays in the completion of tasks, particularly related to the project activities. Impact: high Risk: low</p>	WP1	<p>9.1. CNR will stipulate a partnership agreement with another partner where task, duties will be set for the execution of the project.                      9.2. All coordinating and associated beneficiaries will select employees able to replace those who, for whatever reason, can no longer participate in the activities of the project                      The duration of the project, 60 months, will ensure its feasibility and the achievement of the objectives and realization of the expected results.                      9.3. In order to favour the correct trend of expenses, CNR as coordinating beneficiary will monitor the state of advancement of expenses also through the updating of financial sheets every 3 months.                      9.4. The external auditor should guarantee compliance of the financial statements with the LIFE+ Common Provisions.                      9.5. A buffer time for each action C and D has been considered in the time plan, to ensure the action completion and to overcome problems linked to the extra time required to remove ML and to monitor the health status of DR. Buffer time was also considered in the planning of the oceanographic campaigns given all factors that can cause delay during operation at sea. The duration of the project, 60 months, will ensure its feasibility and the achievement of the objectives and realization of the expected results. In the general time schedule we leave the last 3 months free of actions in order to keep extra time for the completion of all actions, deliverables and final report.</p>
2	<p>Permits to deploy and maintain the MARS within the selected sites. There are specific and detailed guidelines for the placement of artificial reefs (i.e. MARS), defined by the London Convention and Protocol/UNEP Guidelines for the Placement of Artificial Reefs. Artificial reefs as those conceived in the project do not fall among those not allowed by the London convention. However, a permit needs to be required for MARS deployment. Impact: high</p>	WP4	<p>The permits for MARS deployment have to be requested to relevant competent authorities. As we have the support of MAC for Italy, MRDF and MEE in Greece and the support (see Supporting Letter) of the Fundacion Biodiversidad in Spain, we expect to correctly fulfil all the requirements for obtaining the permit for the MARS deployment. For the case of Greece the Region of Thessaly will follow all necessary steps for permits requirements having already previous experience in underwater instruments deployment.</p>

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<b>Critical risks &amp; risk management strategy</b> <i>Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.</i>			
<b>Risk number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Work Package No(s)</b>	<b>Proposed Mitigation Measures</b>
3	Deployment of the DSOS in protected sites. i) The DSOS involved in the project need to be accurately positioned in order to acquire useful images of the framed subject. Impact: high Risk: low ii) The battery pack of the imaging device needs to be accurately designed in order to ensure an appropriate duration of the monitoring action. Impact: low Risk: low iii) Degradation of the image quality due to the presence of bio-fouling on the imaging device port-hole or on the device illuminators. Impact: high Risk: low	WP6	i) The imaging device will be equipped with a wide-angle optical component and an appropriate lighting system in order to optimize the device field of view. Moreover, the DSOS will be deployed with the support of a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) in order to be sure the relevant subject is inside the field of view of the imaging device. The deployment will be tested in a controlled environment prior to the beginning of the monitoring activity. ii) The imaging device used for the proposed monitoring activity is conceived for deployments extended in time (> 1 Yr) and it is based on a ultra-low power hardware and software architecture. Nevertheless, the battery pack will be over-sized with respect to the duration of the planned monitoring activity. Also, yearly recovery of the DSOS will be planned for the device maintenance and for the renewal of the battery pack. iii) The depth of the monitoring sites (< - 100 m) ensure the absence of bio-fouling effects. However, yearly maintenance is also planned for cleaning the imaging device. In the pilot area inside the NMPANS, where the depth is around - 30 m, regular maintenance is also planned by means of divers.
4	Marine litter removal from DR. The main constraints foreseen in the project will be to remove the ML from DR, whether the litter is entangled within the reef. Impact: medium Risk: high	WP4	The ML will be removed by ROV, only if the action does not further damage the DR. We ensure the accuracy and success of the removal actions by involving skilled ROV operators with years of experience and the best technological solutions for work class ROV. All operations will be supervised by the experts from the scientific institutions involved in the project having a strong baseline knowledge of all action sites.
5	Availability and cost of the oceanographic vessels for field measurements and possible adverse weather conditions. The project is planning to perform oceanographic campaigns in the 4 Project Areas and in 3 different countries. The main constraints will be the availability of fully equipped oceanographic vessels available for the project and expert personnel to carry on the operation in the project period. The work at sea might be affected by adverse weather conditions creating some delays in the project. Impact: high Risk: low	WP4	The oceanographic campaigns will be carried out on board the CNR vessel for the Tyrrhenian Seas and for the Adriatic Sea, and the HCMR and CSIC research vessels for Aegean and Alboran Seas respectively, properly equipped to efficiently work at the project depths. In Italy and Spain, the involvement of the CNR and CSIC research vessels will reduce cost implying a budget only for vessel operations. A proper budget for work class ROV's properly equipped for ML removal and MARS/DSOS deployment operations will be foreseen wherever the research vessels involved are not fully equipped. To overcome the possible delay due to the adverse weather conditions during at sea operations, a buffer time for the execution of the oceanographic surveys has been already foreseen. The project timeline will ensure the maximum efficiency in terms of costs, reducing the risk of exceeding available budget for removal/deployment operation.

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<b>Critical risks &amp; risk management strategy</b> <i>Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.</i>			
<b>Risk number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Work Package No(s)</b>	<b>Proposed Mitigation Measures</b>
6	Delay in the designation of the new N2K sites. The main risk will be to obtain the designation of the N2K sites within the time frame of the project. The designation of a new N2K site depends on the Ministerial Decree. The European Environment Agency (EEA) then assists the EU Commission in analysing sites proposals and in the evaluation of the contribution of the proposed sites to the conservation status of each habitat type and species at the biogeographical level. Once the sites proposed under the Habitats Directive are considered sufficient, the lists of sites are adopted by the EC and the MS must designate them as SAC as soon as possible and within 6 years at most. Impact: medium Risk: low	WP4	To ensure the definition of new N2K sites within the timeframe of the project and reduce the risk of designation feasibility, we integrated in the partnership the Region of Apulia designated for this purpose and we have the full support of the Region of Campania and the MAC on which depends the designation of N2K sites (see Supporting letters).
7	Extra-territorial jurisdiction in the designation of the N2K site in the Bari Canyon. The Region of Apulia highlighted the extra-territorial jurisdiction of the Bari Canyon, located beyond 12 nautical miles. Therefore it could not be included among the activities carried out by the Region as the regional administration does not have competences on extraterritorial seas. Impact: low Risk: low	WP4	To overcome this issue, we involved in the project the MAC as a supporter who will guarantee the proper procedure.
8	Waste management permit required to operate the Prototype (environmental permit). Waste management and processing require permit and authorization from local authority, usually taking a very long time to be processed and eventually approved. On several occasions, the permit is not granted by authority due to NYMBY phenomenon and other non-technical matters. Moreover, the	WP5	Permitting phase will be commenced immediately after the project approval and during the first year of the project implementation. A proper authorization request for “experimental plan” according to the Italian legislation (i.e. art. 211 of D.L. 152/2006) will be submitted to the competent administration authority where the Prototype will be expected to be located and operated for the first time. According to the art. 211, the following limits apply for experimental plans: 1) daily capacity below 5 ton/day of waste processed (therefore a theoretical max 1825 ton/year); 2) no profit can be obtained from the plant operation and management.

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<b>Critical risks &amp; risk management strategy</b> <i>Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.</i>			
<b>Risk number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Work Package No(s)</b>	<b>Proposed Mitigation Measures</b>
	Prototype will be designed to be fully portable and for this reason, several authorizations must be obtained from local authorities for each site. Impact: high Risk: medium		Both criteria are met by LIFE DREAM because: 1) Prototype capacity is by far below the limit: even assuming 500 Kg/day feedstock capacity, the annual limit would always be respected. 2) products (fuel) are given to stakeholders (fishers) for free. To address the multiple site locations, the above experimental authorization will be requested according to art. 208 of D.L. 152/2006: "mobile plants permit". According to art. 208, a permit issued for a mobile unit can be enforced at different locations besides that one where the permit was first issued. Prior requirement is a formal communication to the competent authority where the mobile unit is planned to be operated at least 60 days before the plant commissioning. Therefore, a permit for a "mobile and experimental plant" will be submitted to the competent authority. The permit has a validity of 2+2 years, 4 years total, in line with the project timeline. Anyway to fulfil the After LIFE obligation, an extension of the permit validity will be asked in due time in order to cover 5 years after the end of the project.
9	Lack of sufficient ML recovery to saturate the Prototype operational capacity. There is the risk of failure in recovering enough ML from the DR sites and from the fishing activities to effectively saturate the operational capacity of the Prototype and consequently obtain a low quantity of usable fuel for fishermen. Impact: high Risk: low	WP5	There is the possibility of reaching full operational capacity even if the plastic fraction is not enough by integrating plastic waste coming from the ordinary waste disposals (after reaching all necessary permits).
10	Legislative gaps in the management of ML coming from fishing activities and ML removal campaigns. In the MS there are no laws in force regulating the management of ML picked at sea from ships. For example in Italy, ML is not included in any specific category and it is considered as a special waste. For this reason, the fishers involved in the fishing activities could not be supported by local municipalities in the waste disposal. Impact: high Risk: low	WP5	Directive 2019/883/UE on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships have to be adopted by the 3 MS. This Directive aims to protect the marine environment against the negative effects from discharges of waste from ships using ports located in the Union. In this context, the Directive foresees that 'passively fished waste' - meant as waste collected in nets during fishing operations - is included among the "waste from ships". Fishers and ports participating in fishing activities are targeted by the Directive (Art. 3), hence fished waste can be brought on land. The municipalities and the regions involved in the project will ensure an appropriate waste reception and handling plan in each port as requested by the Directive (Art. 5).

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<b>Critical risks &amp; risk management strategy</b>			
<i>Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.</i>			
<b>Risk number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Work Package No(s)</b>	<b>Proposed Mitigation Measures</b>
11	Adoption of the LDTP as best practice guidelines for stakeholders. The main risks will be related to the formal adoption of the best practices illustrated in the hand-on manual about DR restoration and ML removal. Impact: low Risk: medium	WP7	The project foresees a formal adoption of the best practices demonstrated during the project thanks to the involvement of the MAC in Italy, the Fundacion Biodiversidad in Spain and MRDF and MEE in Greece. They have the competence to include the LDTP in national protocols such as the MSFD monitoring plan.

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ANNEX 1



## **Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)**

### **Description of the action (DoA)**

**Part B**

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## 1. RELEVANCE

### 1.1 Background and general project objectives

#### Background and general project objectives

Reefs (*sensu* H1170, Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC) have been proven to be of exceptional ecological value on a global scale. However, LIFE projects have rarely focused on evaluating their environmental status, and assessing their value for social and human wellbeing. LIFE DREAM will contribute to fill this gap by concentrating on Deep Reefs (**DR**), deeper than 60 m and including the following benthic communities: Coralligenous formations, Deep Water Oyster Reefs (**DWOR**) and Cold Water Corals (**CWC**). The ecological importance and functional role of DR are still poorly understood, although they act as biodiversity hotspots, whose ecosystemic value is internationally recognized. Knowledge gaps persist on their ecological traits and on the environmental factors governing these charismatic ecosystem components. Despite European environmental legislation such as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (**MSFD** 2008/56/EC), aims to assess and preserve the Good Environmental Status (**GES**) of these habitats, human activities provoke detrimental effects on DR, which remain largely unassessed. The consequence is that reefs are among the most

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endangered benthic habitats, severely threatened by climate change and human activities. Major direct threats for reefs include illegal dumping, wasting practices and fishing operations with bottom contact gears, such as trawling and longlining, as reported in international protection agreements (e.g. Habitats Directive; SPA/BIO Protocol; Barcelona and Berne conventions; Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries). In the Mediterranean Sea, the high densities of benthic Marine Litter (**ML**) have been documented thus far, reaching values, for example in the Messina Strait, of up to ~200 items/10 m (Pierdomenico et al., 2019). Benthic litter is often arranged in large accumulations of hundreds of land-sourced items, mixed to vegetal and coarse-grained debris, as a consequence of sedimentary gravity flows and currents action. Canyons, in particular, act as a sink for litter accumulation and a transfer to the deep sea, with plastic marine debris as major contributors, reaching densities of 8,000 to 15,000 items km<sup>-2</sup> in the north-western Mediterranean Sea (Tubau et al., 2015).

Such widespread presence of ML threatens the health status of DR, leading to their degradation (de Carvalho-Souza et al., 2018) and loss of associated ecological functions (Galgani et al., 2018). The most visible effect of ML is arguably the entanglement of megafauna, which limits their ability to move, feed, breathe, and reproduce (Li et al., 2016; Anastasopoulou and Fortibuoni, 2019). Tissue abrasion and branch breaking are among the major effects of ML entanglement on sessile erected species (e.g., Yoshikawa and Asoh, 2004; Angiolillo, 2019), ultimately provoking a progressive and extended habitats degradation and a reduction in their coverage on the seafloor (Laist, 1997; Fossà et al., 2002; Brown and Macfadyen, 2007).

The LIFE DREAM transnational project, involving Italy, Spain, and Greece, will target 4 Project Areas (PAs) across the Mediterranean Sea, all including important DR habitats: 1) the Monopoli shelf and Bari Canyon (apulian margin) in the South Adriatic Sea; 2) the Dohrn Canyon (Gulf of Naples) in the Tyrrhenian Sea; 3) the Seco de los Olivos Seamount in the Alboran Sea; 4) the National Marine Park of Alonissos Northern Sporades (**NMPANS**) in the Aegean continental shelf. LIFE DREAM PAs have different biological and environmental contexts:

**PA1.** This area includes the Monopoli shelf, characterized by well developed Coralligenous formations and DWOR best embodied by the gryphaeid *Neopycnodonte cochlear*, and the Bari Canyon, which hosts scattered CWC reefs dominated by the colonial scleractinians *Madrepora oculata*, *Desmophyllum pertusum* (= *Lophelia pertusa*), the solitary *Desmophyllum dianthus*, and large fan-shaped sponges (e.g. *Pachastrella monilifera*, *Poecillastra compressa*). Albeit rare, main threats documented by Remotely Operated Vehicle (**ROV**) surveys are littering and fishing activity (mainly entangled longlines).

**PA2.** Dohrn Canyon hosts a recently-discovered and unique biotope typified by CWC and large bivalves, including DWOR, in the vicinity of the Naples megalopolis. DWOR are characterized by *Neopycnodonte cochlear* in the shelf area and by *Neopycnodonte zibrowii* in the canyon flank at greater depths. DWOR at lower shelf/upper slope provides substrate for black coral forests (typified by *Leiopathes glaberrima*). Important human impact is evident on the seafloor, mainly consisting of dumping and macro-littering, as well as lost fishing gears (longlines).

**PA3.** Seco de los Olivos Seamount is characterized by different Coralligenous formations dominated by Gorgonian communities in shallow and intermediate waters, much deeper, by CWC assemblages hosting several protected species. The Seco de los Olivos has been declared as Site of Community Importance - SCI (ESZZ16003) and included in the EU Natura 2000 network of marine areas in the frame of the LIFE Indemares Project; intense fishing activities and maritime traffic persist in this area.

**PA4.** The NMPANS hosts extensive Coralligenous formations, extending from shallow waters down to 100 m, where Gorgonian communities, as well as other vulnerable, protected and commercially important species are known to occur. The main anthropogenic pressures on these habitats of priority for conservation are related to fishing activities, mainly small-scale fishing (artisanal and recreational), whereas trawling is officially prohibited within the Marine Park. PA4 also hosts a Coralligenous formation around 30 m water depth that will be considered as a pilot area for scale-up the LIFE DREAM methods and solutions in a shallow environment.

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## 1.2 Specific project objectives

### Specific project objectives

LIFE DREAM aims at:

- **improving the knowledge base**, at a transnational level, across the Mediterranean Sea on: 1) the distribution of DR (H1170 of Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC) with particular focus on their health status and the ecological services they provide, 2) the multiple stressors threatening DR, with a particular focus on the ML, in order to evaluate how they affect the environmental status of DR, and 3) the areas of conflicts between the conservations measures and the human uses to be used in the implementation of management plans;
- through the integration of previous knowledge and new acquired data, **extending the Italian Natura 2000 (N2K) network** to the deep sea by 1) evaluating and proposing new N2K sites in the Southern Adriatic Sea (Bari Canyon) and in the Gulf of Naples (Dohrn Canyon); and 2) providing information to support the potential enlargement of already existing N2K site along the apulian coast from Barletta to Monopoli (SCI Posidonieto San Vito - Barletta - IT9120009);
- facilitate **passive restoration** of the DR through ML removal in the PAs;
- promote **active restoration** through the deployment of eco-friendly 3D-printed Modular Artificial Reef Structures (**MARS**), applying a demonstrative action to assess, mitigate and monitor the impact of ML on DR, as a tool to specifically guide conservation/restoration measures;
- **prevent** further litter accumulation (mainly plastic items) in DR, through fishing activities supporting ML removal;
- foster **circular economy** concepts by proposing a business model linking ML removal with subsequent recycling and reusing of plastic fractions by means of a low-temperature pyrolysis Prototype developed within the project;
- **increase public awareness** (general public, sea-users and stakeholders) about the importance of DR for ocean health and for human wellbeing and therefore of the urgency to reduce and prevent ML accumulation on these charismatic habitats

## 1.3 Compliance with LIFE programme objectives and call topic

### Compliance with LIFE Programme objectives

- The project will capitalize and combine for the first time in the deep sea ecosystems, tools and methods already tested and proved to be effective in different environments and will upgrade and scale up methodologies and transversal approaches that could be subsequently applied to similar situations elsewhere at transnational level. In particular, we will develop, demonstrate and promote innovative comprehensive solutions to restore and preserve charismatic deep sea habitats (Reefs H1170) threatened by ML.
- We will increase the knowledge base about DR (H1170 of the Habitats Directive) distributions and health status in the Mediterranean Sea at transnational level involving three countries (GR, IT, ES). We will draft and apply a technical protocol, shared between member states, with best practices on deep-sea ML removal operations with the related cost/benefits analysis, DR passive and active restoration approaches and conservation/prevention solutions.
- LIFE DREAM will contribute to the full implementation of the EU environmental legislation by improving and widening the N2K network and by restoring selected DR ecosystems, and thus preserving the ecological services they provide, in different contexts (3 EU countries, 3 MSFD subregions). By fostering a cross-boundary approach involving different European countries and their national environmental policies, the project will link the biodiversity information and the ecosystem-based management within the Blue Growth and circular economy pillars; in this framework, we will actively involve the public authorities, industrial sectors and the general public.

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- The LIFE DREAM aims at establishing curative and preventive management measures, as a first step towards the adoption of specific legislative tools (at regional and tentatively transnational level) to be integrated within the MSFD methodological standards and technical guidance, particularly targeting, for the first time, sensitive and vulnerable deep-sea ecosystems.
- LIFE DREAM will pursue a replicability and transferability of the demonstrated approach fostering transnational synergies among different countries (Italy, Spain, Greece) in order to guarantee the replication of the circular economy experiment to promote environmentally friendly and financially viable solutions to the ML problem with selected stakeholders.

#### Compliance with the call topic

**Topic:** Nature and Biodiversity.

**Intervention area 1:** "Space for nature": area- based conservation and restoration measures.

**Priority 1:** The extent to which the proposal contributes to the objectives of EU Nature and Biodiversity legislation in particular under the EU Birds and **Habitats Directive** (incl. Natura 2000) and the Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species.

**Priority 2:** The extent to which the proposal contributes to the targets of the **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030** for a Trans- European Nature Network and the EU Restoration plan.

#### Reasons why the proposal falls under the selected project topic:

LIFE DREAM aims at improving the condition of the marine habitat type coded as H1170 "Reefs" in the Habitats Directive 92/43/EC, severely threatened by human activities (in particular ML) both within and outside the existing Natura 2000 sites through area based conservation and restoration measures.

The project activities address habitat and site-related conflicts between marine conservation and users, combining habitat restoration with ML removal. Conflicts will be addressed through an informative and participative approach involving fishers in the ML removal and recycling, as well as preventing further ML accumulation on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (**VME**) and fauna of Community interest. LIFE DREAM represents a realistic challenge to link biodiversity conservation with circular economy and blue growth objectives, through the creation of a portfolio of tools, technologies and a business model in support of conservation/restoration - ecosystem services - circular economy considerations. These demonstrative and innovative actions will provide evidence-based preservation and sustainable management practices strengthening potential replicability to other areas.

LIFE DREAM will propose additional designations or enlargements of the Italian Natura 2000 site and will improve the biodiversity focus of existing protected areas in Spain and Greece.

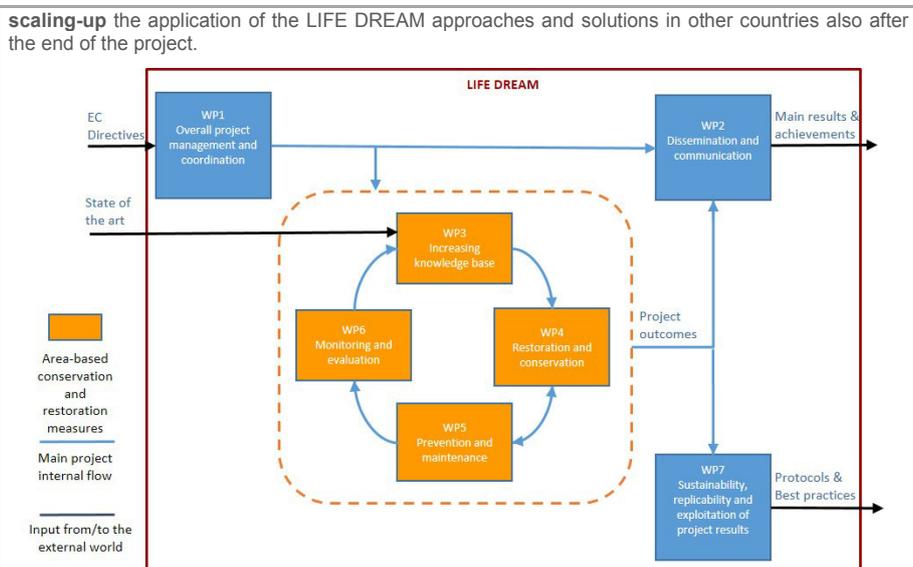
### 1.4 Concept and methodology

#### Concept and methodology

##### Overall intervention logic

The LIFE DREAM Project will firstly **increase the knowledge** about DR, their conservation status and the ecosystem services they provide, considering impacts from stressors with special focus on ML in 4 selected areas of high ecological relevance. Successively, innovative technologies will be applied to **restore** and **preserve** the health status of the targeted DR. The activities consist in the deployment of MARS at selected locations to facilitate the restoration of DR and the establishment of deep-sea observatory systems to **monitor** their evolution. Simultaneously, efforts to remove ML will be exerted using ROVs, as well as through the involvement of local fishing communities who will be collecting ML from the seafloor in Project Areas during their daily trawling operations and will be then engaged in waste management through the LIFE DREAM circular economy experiment. The latter will contribute to preventing further accumulation of ML in the sites of interest and also to create incentives to fishers for being involved in this waste management process by providing them opportunities to reuse the plastic fraction transforming it into fuel for marine transport by means of the portable low-temperature pyrolysis Prototype developed in the framework of this project.

The idea behind the LIFE DREAM concept is to **increase the public awareness** about the importance of these charismatic and sensitive habitats and the ecosystem services they provide. By fostering the link between ecological and economic benefits, the project aims at promoting conservation and protection of DR involving key stakeholders. The activities will be replicated in 3 Mediterranean countries (Italy, Spain, Greece), but the aims of the project extend beyond the national borders,



**Figure 1.** LIFE DREAM Project overall logic, describing the Work Packages (WP) and the relation between them. The area-based measures are the core of the project (in orange) linked in a circular process from the increase of knowledge to the monitoring of the results. The outcomes of the area-based measures are linked to the dissemination, communication and scale-up activities (in blue).

This section describes for each objective the main concepts and the methodologies applied to lead to the expected changes through the project outcomes summarized in the following table.

Objectives	Concepts (why)	Methodology (how)	Expected outputs
Increase the knowledge base for DR and human uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to develop a holistic overview of the DR ecosystems</li> <li>- to fill the gaps of knowledge</li> <li>- to provide a baseline to evaluate DR health status</li> <li>- to plan the area-based conservation measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- building a spatial relational database with the state of the art</li> <li>- producing high resolution maps of DR ecosystem</li> <li>- mapping human activities, with special focus on the analysis of fishing activities and maritime traffic through VMS and AIS data</li> <li>- producing multiple uses maps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 geodatabases</li> <li>1 geoportal</li> <li>4 multiple uses maps</li> </ul>
Active and passive restoration of DR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to develop underwater farms/nurseries where coral species can grown</li> <li>- to provide a thoughtful methodological protocol for ML removal shared at international scale</li> <li>- to reduce the impact of human-related pressures on the DR ecosystems, in particular ML</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- deploying eco-friendly 3D-printed Modular Artificial Reef Structures (MARS) specifically conceived and designed for the dominant species and features characterising the Project Areas</li> <li>- removing ML from DR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ca. 80 MARS units covering a surface of approximately 1 m<sup>2</sup> and 1.5 m high</li> <li>ca. 0.5 items/100 m of ML from removal operations along the transects</li> <li>1 technical protocol (LDTP)</li> </ul>
Establishment of N2K for DR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to enlarge the N2K network at sea in the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- proposing the designation of 2 new N2K sites (Bari canyon and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Standard Data Forms</li> </ul>

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	<p>deep-sea environment, ensuring the long-term conservation of charismatic habitats, such as the DR targeted by the project</p>	<p>Dohrn Canyon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- enlarging the already existing N2K site along the Apulian coast (SCI Posidonieto San Vito - Barletta - IT9120009)</li> <li>- updating management needs relevant to DR of the already existing N2K sites (the Seco de los Olivos SCI and the National Marine Park of Alonissos Northern Sporades)</li> </ul>	<p>2 new N2K sites</p> <p>2 proposals with respective management</p> <p>recommendations for achieving or maintaining GES in DR in the existing N2K sites</p>
<p>Prevention and maintenance through circular economy experiment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to reduce the amount of litter (in particular fishing gears) reaching such inaccessible areas and preventing further litter accumulation on DR within the conservation area</li> <li>- to create a virtuous circle of plastic reuse/recycling and a correct treatment of the non-reusable fraction</li> <li>- to raise awareness of the significance of the problem, especially for the vulnerable deep-sea ecosystems, within the fishing sector by contributing to fishers behavioural changes regarding ML and its disposal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- involving fishers in a circular economy experiment</li> <li>- implementing a low-temperature pyrolysis Prototype recycling the plastic fraction of ML into fuel for marine transport</li> <li>- involving fishers in awareness raising about DR and derived ecosystem services, fostering responsible waste management practices (fishing gear supply chain)</li> </ul>	<p>ca. 144 fishers involved and trained for the Prototype usage</p> <p>ca. 25 fishing vessels involved</p> <p>ca. 10 ports involved</p> <p>ca 1-2 kg/day/vessel of ML from fishing activities</p> <p>ca. 9 tons of plastic recycled</p> <p>1 portable Prototype</p> <p>ca. 3,000 L of marine fuel classified as "ultra-low sulfur fuel oil" (&lt;1000 ppm) produced</p> <p>ca. 0.5-0.75 ton CO<sub>2</sub> eq. avoided per ton of marine fuel produced</p>
<p>Assessment of the Impact of the area-based measures on DR and local economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to evaluate the effectiveness of the restoration and conservation measures on the DR</li> <li>- to evaluate the socioeconomic feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- deploying in situ observatory system</li> <li>- evaluating the costs and benefits related to the ecosystem services provided by DR</li> <li>- applying questionnaires to local stakeholders</li> </ul>	<p>4 deep-sea observation systems</p> <p>ca. 175 questionnaires</p>

**Table 1.** Overall logic of the LIFE DREAM Project based on the main objectives, describing main concepts applied to reach the project outcomes and lead the proposed changes.

### 1. Improving the knowledge base about DR and human uses

**Concept.** The deep sea is the largest and least explored biome on Earth, with only <0.001% of its surface investigated in terms of biodiversity (Danovaro et al., 2014). DR are under increasing threat from human activities, due to fisheries (especially bottom trawling), waste dumping and littering, maritime traffic and other usages of the seabed, progressively expanding into deeper waters (Benn et al., 2010). Given the insufficient knowledge on the distribution, spatial extent and biodiversity of deep-sea habitats including the DR, the lack of comprehensive biological and ecological data and of an ecological baseline, LIFE DREAM preliminary activities aim at **filling these gaps** in specific areas of the Mediterranean Sea (ITA, ES, GR). In the 4 Pas, we will focus on the distribution and health status of the DR, and on the presence and intensity of the human activities (with particular attention to ML (considering also maritime traffic, an important source of ocean-based ML in open waters Garcia-Rivera et al., 2017), as well as fishing activities which impact DR both directly during fishing operations and indirectly with derelict fishing gear. Within the LIFE DREAM Project, maps of the distribution of DR and of multiple human uses will be produced to provide a more comprehensive picture of the PAs.

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By comparing the spatial information on DR distribution and human activities, the project will provide an assessment of the human activities on DR to identify potential **conflicts**, and ultimately propose actions, in the form of new N2K sites, aimed at preserving the status of these vulnerable habitats and the **ecosystem services** they provide.

**Methodology.** The LIFE DREAM Project will provide a **holistic overview** of the DR in the PAs as a baseline to evaluate their health status, and to define and plan the **area-based conservation measures**.

*Data gathering and knowledge review*

As a first step, we will increase the knowledge base about DR and human uses in the PAs by **collecting and elaborating** historical records and best available data acquired during previous surveys and studies focused on geological, geomorphological, hydrological and biological aspects. Furthermore, information about human activities and their impacts on DR within the PAs, as well as pertinent socio-economic data will be gathered. Different types of data from different sources (e.g. literature, public databases, project partners) will be integrated to create the baseline knowledge for the implementation of the activities planned in the 4 PAs:

- geophysical data (e.g. bathymetry, seabed acoustic reflectivity, sub-bottom profiles);
- geological data (e.g. bottom samples, videos and images);
- biological data on the reefs characterising the Project Areas (e.g. species occurrences, spatial distribution of the habitats, samples, videos and images);
- oceanographic variables distribution (e.g. temperature anomalies, currents);
- type and distribution of all human activities and pressures carried out within the Project Areas and/or impacting on them, (e.g., fishing activities, maritime traffic, shellfish and fish farms);
- ML sources at basin scale (Adriatic Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea, and Aegean Sea) or in areas adjacent to the study sites;
- legislation provisions for the study areas;
- management plan and maritime spatial planning actions;
- socio-economic data using NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 indicators if available (e.g. on basic demographics, socioeconomic status, employment, income etc).

Successively, we will collect new high-resolution data, inside the planned sites in each PA, by means of **oceanographic campaigns** aiming at assessing the baseline in relation to the actual DR health status and habitat condition. According with the MSFD monitoring protocols, we will carry on at least 6 ROV transects (200 m each) per site (13 considering all PAs) and we will use the following list of indicators to assess the DR health status:

- species richness observed along a transect, based on the identification of benthic organisms at the lowest possible hierarchical taxonomic level;
- relative abundance of each individual structuring species (*sensu* Habitats Directive, see section B2b), expressed in number of colonies/individuals per m<sup>2</sup> of the hard bottom present along the transect, excluding in the assessment substrates of different nature;
- health status of structuring species, calculated as the percentage of epibiosis and/or necrosis and entrapment taking note of the following aspects:
  - percentage of colonies/individuals presenting the phenomenon in the total population;
  - extent of the phenomenon on individual colonies/individuals as a percentage of the area affected per species (<25%, 25%-50%; 50%-75%; >75%);
  - number of colonies/individuals of structuring species clearly affected by the presence of ML;
  - height measurements of the colonies/individuals present along the transect (measuring, when possible, a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 100 colonies/individuals for each species), in order to provide estimates of population size structure per species per site;
  - abundance and type of ML and physical damage (fishing or other anthropogenic activities) along the transect.

*Mapping and assessment of human activities*

Human activities potentially influencing the status of DR within the PAs will be mapped using the best available data, with a special focus on fishery activities and potential sources of ML. The presence of ML within the PAs will be mapped by integrating literature information with data from MEDITS (Mediterranean International Trawl Survey), where available, from Fishing For Litter activities (F4L), and from other databases collecting information about ML (such as EMODnet portals, LITTERBASE, Marine

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Litter Watch). Spatial data on maritime traffic, representing a potential ML source, in correspondence of the 4 PAs will also be considered.

Remote near-real time tracking vessel data (AIS and VMS technologies) will be used as a proxy of the **fishing effort**. Data from AIS/VMS tracking devices will be retrieved, integrated, organized and interpolated to obtain a **spatial footprint of the fishing and maritime traffic pressure** within the LIFE DREAM PAs. We will also focus on estimating the **fishing footprint** from small-scale fisheries (SSF), using mainly static nets and longlines; a fishing pressure index from SSF will be estimated by means of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) methodology. The estimation will be conducted through a stepwise procedure, based on influential components affecting coastal fishing in terms of its distribution and intensity such as fishing capacity, bathymetry, distance from coastline, environmental conditions (among others) (Kavadas et al. 2015). The AIS/VMS/MCDA-derived layers will be cross-analysed in combination with information pertaining to the distributions of the DR structures in the Bari Canyon and the Monopoli offshore in the South Adriatic Sea, the Dohrn Canyon in the Tyrrhenian Sea, the Seco de los Olivos Seamount in Alboran Sea, and the Alonissos site in the Aegean Sea. AIS and VMS data for the time period 2012-2022 will be collected for every PA at the best possible quality level in terms of fleet coverage and spatio-temporal resolution and will then distinguish gear. Each record of the raw VMS and AIS data will consist of the minimal mandatory fields to yield information that includes: vessel identification number, longitude, latitude, date, time, speed and heading. In some cases, VMS data could be characterized by several confidentiality-related problems which prevent the sharing of the information about the real identity of each vessel. In such cases, given that the vessel's identification is important in order to be able to connect to the EU fleet database, VMS data will be provided with the vessel ID conveniently encrypted. Once all the required raw data is collected, the spatio-temporal information will be processed with the merging of VMS and AIS data for each area/case study. Subsequently, some Data Cleaning, Track Cutting, Points Identification and Track Interpolation sub-steps will be performed to avoid irregularities and duplications. The analysis of VMS and AIS data will be processed using standard libraries/routines developed in R. Outcomes from previous scientific projects or from the literature will be also considered (EMODnet, MINOUW, FAO Global Atlas of AIS, MedSea Checkpoint).

#### *Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA)*

Selected key outcomes derived in the frame of the previous process will be further analysed through a **Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA)** evaluation technique that will rationalize the process of identifying:

i) areas deserving protection through the enlargement/proposal of N2K sites; ii) areas characterized by multiple stressors; iii) areas of conflicts between human uses and conservation measures, that can be used to assess the relative desirability of a decision for designating a N2K for DR considering a set of alternative options. The analysis will be performed in the GIS environment; the aim is to select areas that maximize the objective defined by the goals: i) environmental relevance, i.e., presence of DR, ii) human exploitation, i.e., high concentration of human activities, and ML distribution, combined to produce different scenarios (Gregory et al., 2012). Goals will be described with quantifiable criteria accounting for the most relevant aspects. A weight will be assigned to each criterion, depending on the importance of the criteria to the relative goal (Belton & Stewart, 2002; Esmail and Geneletti, 2017). The robustness of the outputs and the uncertainty related to all the steps of the MCA process will be tested using a sensitivity analysis (Saltelli et al. 2000).

#### *Data management and sharing*

All the data collected and produced during the LIFE DREAM Project activities will be stored in a **relational spatial database** to best manage the information and organise further steps of the project and will be published with a **Geoportal**, accessible to partners, stakeholders and the general public. In detail, all information (spatial and no spatial data) collected during the lifespan of the project will be managed through the CNR Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) consisting of several elements: software and hardware, spatial data, metadata, web services, data storage and standards. The data and the products of the LIFE DREAM Project will be homogenized and standardized through a Geodatabase (implemented using ArcGIS software following the INSPIRE Data Specifications), a spatial relational database made of the spatial component (where) and their attributes (what). The data will be grouped into layers, according to the individual components with similar features (points, lines, polygons), and the layers will be organized by themes (e.g. Protected sites, Habitats, Oceanography). Once the Geodatabase is populated, it will be moved into an ORACLE database on the CNR server (ArcGIS server). The layers, with the adequate symbologies, will be catalogued through the Content Management System Moka (@Semenda srl) and published in a HTML5 web APP application (CMS Moka and ArcGIS server), obtaining the LIFE DREAM Geoportal. The geoportal is a key element for the project, used to access the geographic information and the associated geographic services via browser (e.g. visualize, query, filter, measure, print a map). It allows the partners to share data and results, and to disclose them outside the project. The geoportal will be accessible through the LIFE DREAM website, together with the Web Map Services (WMS), that are **OGC web services** allowing the direct visualization of the layers in a desktop GIS environment. The OGC services will make the system interoperable with other systems. Layers and WMS will be described by **metadata** ISO 19115, an internationally-adopted schema for describing geographic information and services, providing

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information about data: Title, Abstract, Author, Keywords, Extent, Data policy, Source, Lineage, etc. All metadata will be available through the ISMAR metadata catalogue, a mechanism for storing and accessing descriptive metadata, allowing users to discover LIFE DREAM data and products on the web. The LIFE DREAM Geoportal will store and integrate all data, products and results collected during the lifespan of the LIFE DREAM Project and for the following five years after LIFE DREAM Project ends. A data policy in line with European Standards and the FAIR principles will be agreed among the partners and included in the LIFE DREAM **Data Management Plan (DMP)** for data sharing and reuse. Furthermore, all the data gathered together will be transferred to European databases, such as EMODnet (<https://emodnet.eu/en>), in order to give them more visibility and include them in a wider context.

## 2. Active and passive restoration of DR

**Concept.** The detrimental effects of human activities on biogenic reefs are widely documented on a global scale (Hughes et al., 2003), with climate changes and fishing activities as the major threats. However, ML represents a remarkable and persistent impact on reef habitats. Organisms entangled by ML are hindered in their ability to move, feed, breathe, and reproduce, ultimately leading to the loss of biodiversity (Li et al., 2016). A high level of biodiversity is not only an indicator of the status of benthic habitats but also upholds the ecological functions habitats provide. The loss of biodiversity that reef habitats are experiencing will, thus, lead to the erosion of the services they supply (Worm et al., 2016; Thurber et al., 2014). In the last decades, priority was given to conservation efforts protecting reefs not heavily altered by human activity to mitigate the anthropic impacts, prevent further negative effects and favor their recovery. However, the natural recovery of habitat formed by slow-growth organisms such as reefs may take centuries (Dayton, 2003). For such reasons, active intervention to aid the regeneration of these habitats as a complement to management and conservation actions is acquiring increasing importance (Van Dover et al., 2014). Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed by human activities, bringing it back as close as possible to its undisturbed state (Van Dover et al., 2014). Restoration actions range from removing human disturbances in order to allow for natural or unassisted recovery (“passive restoration” *sensu* DellaSala et al., 2003, Rey Benayas et al., 2008) to humans actively intervening to accelerate the recovery (“active restoration” *sensu* Montseny et al., 2021). Within the LIFE DREAM Project, active and passive restoration actions will be performed on DR to reduce human impacts and boost the process of habitat recovery.

### *Active restoration*

The use of 3D structures as **underwater farms/nurseries** for the growth of reef-forming species is the most common approach for the active restoration of reef habitat. These can be positioned in sheltered areas and then eventually relocated back to natural reef location. The farms have been successively used around the world (Shafir et al., 2006) and new methods are constantly developed to fit the characteristics of the area and the target species. It is common practice to use underwater structures to grow fringed corals, such as coral trees, bio rock structures, steel tables, pipes and concrete blocks (Nedymer et al., 2011). We will use Modular Artificial Reef Structure (**MARS**) that mimic these farming structures as a 3D lattice that can be assembled onboard and deployed by a boat crane windlass, assisted by a light-work ROV for its correct location, equipped with a manipulator arm. This partly eliminates the need for heavy-duty machinery (which is not always easily accessible), and allows for a strong structure using minimal material. As an affordable and easy-to-install solution for supporting natural reef replenishment, porous ceramic modules that can be clamped together to form 3D lattice structures will be created. The ceramic surface is intended to mimic the calcium skeletons of dead corals, which build up over thousands of years to create structures that living corals attach themselves onto, in order to gain better access to plankton-rich currents. These surfaces are 3D-printed and moulded in ceramic using the slip casting process. 3D printing will help to mimic the natural contours and textures of the reef and provide complex physical structures using nature-centered design (Tarazi et al. 2019) that will promote the immediate return of mobile reef megafauna and fish (Komyakova et al. 2019). The hollow forms are then filled with marine-grade concrete, and are reinforced with composite bars to add weight. Ceramic has proved to be one of the best materials for artificial reef use, especially when trying to enhance the colonisation of sensitive corals, as it is completely inert, can be moulded with rough surfaces and has an extremely long lifespan underwater (alternatively as this technology is increasingly growing, other solutions, such as the use of mussel shells can be evaluated (Sauerwein and Doubrowsky, 2018). Once implemented, the system will provide a permanent rigid structure where coral larvae from adjacent colonies can settle, but it can also act as a refuge for other species in the area.

### *Passive restoration*

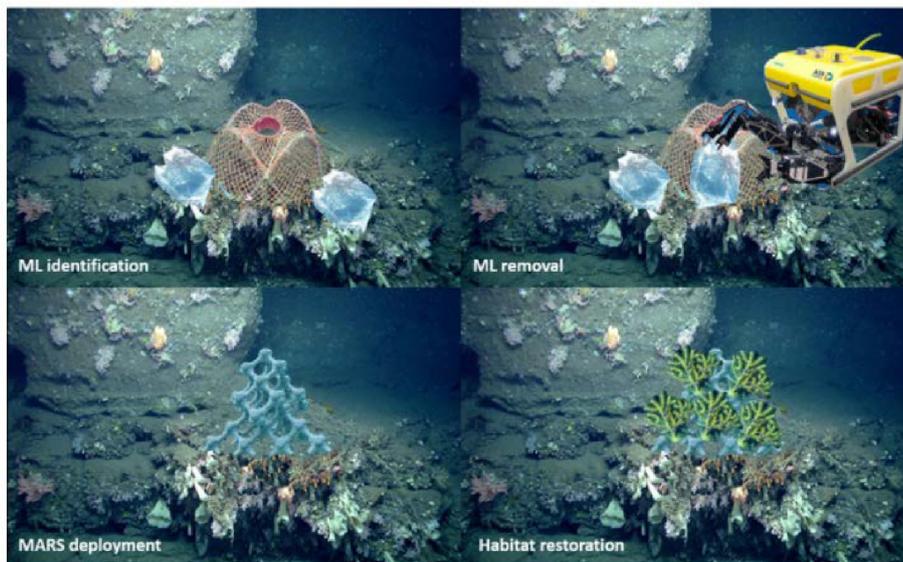
The passive habitat restoration performed within the project concerns the **removal of ML** in correspondence with DR to favour their natural recovery. An evaluation of the benefits and costs of the removal actions will be performed to provide specific operational protocols in relation to ML type and quantity. Removing ML entangling sessile organisms might not only necessarily represent the best approach to foster habitat recovery since it could generate additional damages. Also, ML can constitute a secondary substrate suitable for reef species colonization. In such situations, the restoration actions

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should be limited to the deployment of MARS and the prevention of further accumulations. The Project will also consider the **cost-effectiveness of passive restoration of DR**, comparing operational costs (e.g. costs of cleanup; costs associated with damage to or loss of fishing gear) with the **economical return** expected from the restoration of habitats and the ecological services they supply. This will be assessed by estimating the potential economic losses associated with habitat degradation, such as impacts of ML on human health from the alteration/contamination of food webs, and the loss of revenue from fish and of cultural and aesthetic value.

**Methodology.** During the site-specific oceanographic campaigns in the PAs, MARS for DR restoration will be deployed and ML removal operations will be performed where possible.



**Figure 2.** Schematic illustration of the different phases of ML removal and DR restoration through MARS deployment.

#### *MARS design and deployment*

This activity will aim at the development of 3D-printed Modular Artificial Reef Structure (MARS) (Sreekanth et al., 2019; [www.seaboost.fr/solution-ecologique-marine/#recifs-artificiels](http://www.seaboost.fr/solution-ecologique-marine/#recifs-artificiels); <https://www.reefdesignlab.com/mars>) for DR restoration and their deployment in areas selected among those most damaged by ML due to entanglement or total covering by large artefacts or abandoned or lost or discarded fishing gear" namely ALDFG. MARS will be deployed in areas mostly affected by the presence of ML. The deployment will be limited in space, as we expect that moderately-damaged habitats may recover naturally once anthropogenic pressures are eliminated. The MARS units will cover a surface of approximately 1 m<sup>2</sup> and will be up to 1.5 m in height, for ease of transport and deployment. Up to 20 units will be placed at each site, and units will be aggregated together to form several reef clusters mimicking the spatial organization of actual reefs. Thanks to the modularity of MARS, the system can be built in any shape and size depending on the requirements of the damaged reef structure, restoring in considerably less time what may have taken 100 years to restore naturally. Colonization through larval settlement and attachment of sessile forms including soft corals and sponges will occur over time, while the biodegradable material decays, leaving behind only coral, and setting the stage for a healthy reef to develop.

#### *Marine litter removal and assessment of the costs/benefits of operations*

The site-based ML removal will be performed by means of ROV fitting the specific requirements of the most advanced technologies in this industrial sector, possibly a Work Class type equipped with multiple HD cameras and sensors, up to two robotic manipulator arms and a spacious basket for object and samples collection (in some cases customized for this Project). Experienced ROV operators will be employed in order to ensure the effectiveness of the operation and to avoid possible DR damages.

Based on these site-based activity, we will draft a **protocol (LDTP)** to guide the ML removal operations in deep environments taking into account: i) the feasibility and effectiveness of the removal where the ML is colonised by targeted species; ii) the cost and benefits of the operations in different contexts (e.g. presence of entangled longlines vs presence of plastic bags or dumped materials) in terms of elated-cost for physical removal (of shiptime, days, men, fuel) and estimated improvement of ecosystem

services associated to DR restoration.

### 3. Enlarge the Natura 2000 network in deep environment

**Concept.** Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) have been recently established in Spanish and Maltese Mediterranean deep-sea areas under the EU's Habitats Directive through EU-funded LIFE projects. However, the marine component of Natura 2000, a European network of areas for the conservation of biodiversity, is still far from being representative of deep marine ecosystems (Katsanevakis et al., 2020)

The activities for restoring DR together with the knowledge produced will be the basis to propose new N2K, that will extend the protected areas network also in deep-sea environments ensuring the long-term survival of charismatic and crucial habitats, such as the DR targeted by the project.

**Methodology.** A Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) integrating information on DR distribution and data on the multiple human activities will be used to identify areas of priority for conservation that will ensure protection of natural resources, i.e., DR, but avoid conflicts with human activities. By considering a set of alternative options and providing a suitability index ranging from 0, not recommended, to 1, highly suitable for conservation actions, the outputs of the MCDA will drive the proposal of sites to extend the N2K network to the DR.

In Italy, the proposal of new N2K sites or the enlargement of those already existing will pass through the submission of a Standard Data Form (SDF) to be completed for each site and including:

- site identification and name;
- site location;
- ecological information (i.e. habitat types present on the site and assessment for them);
- site description reporting cover area for each habitat (%); other site characteristics; quality and importance; threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site; ownership, and supporting documents;
- site protection status at national and regional level;
- site management;
- map of the site.

The Standard Data Form filled by the scientific communities for each proposed site will be submitted by the competent authorities (see supporting letters) to the European Commission (EC), which will convene scientific seminars for each biogeographical region with the aim to determine the quality of the proposals. Once the lists of Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) have been adopted, competent authorities of Member States must designate them as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), as soon as possible and within six years at the most. They should give priority to those sites that are most threatened and/or most important for conservation and take the necessary management or restoration measures to ensure the favourable conservation status of sites during this period.

In Greece and Spain, where a N2K site for DR already exists, the new information gathered by the LIFE DREAM Project, will be used to integrate the relative SDF and to support the management plans.

### 4. Prevention and maintenance through circular economy experiment

**Concept.** The EU Action plan for the Circular Economy (COM/2015/614) and the "European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy" commit the European Commission to help reduce the impacts of litter on marine ecosystems. Long-term sustainable solutions are moving towards a circular economy that involves waste reduction, recycling, reuse or upcycling (recycling to improve a materials value, Löhner et al., 2017).

The circular economy approach includes the use of novel equipment and technologies to reduce emissions. Depending on the quality of the waste, there are different recycling options. ML is a waste widely dispersed, therefore the cost related to its collection and transportation might be relevant for any recycling activity. Besides, the heterogeneity and contamination level of such waste streams make usual mechanical recycling techniques ineffective. Chemical recycling, on the other hand, is relatively insensitive to waste heterogeneity and contaminations, making an ideal candidate to address Ocean pollution if the outcome is marine fuel readily available for use.

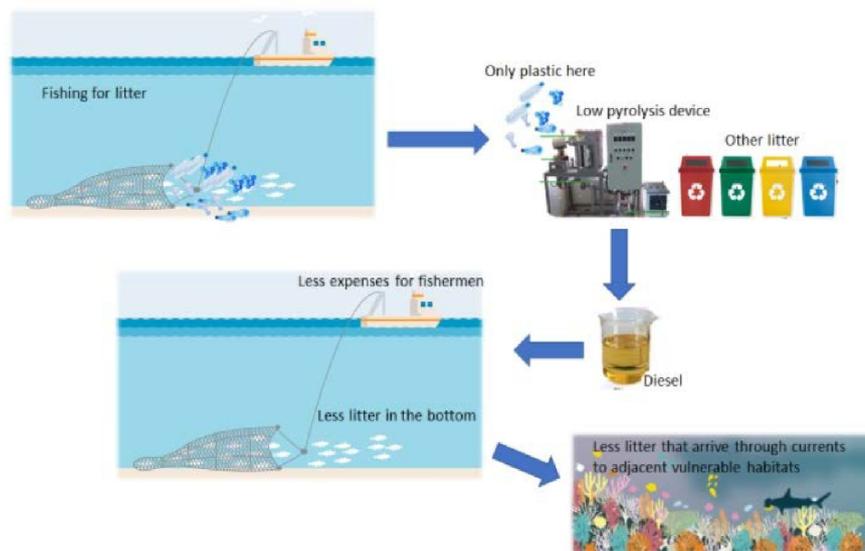
In the framework of the marGnet project, Sintol srl has developed a low-temperature pyrolysis Prototype able to recycle the plastic frankton of ML producing fuel for marine transportation. From marGnet project outcomes, produced marine fuel has the sulfur level of approximately 5 times lower compared to conventional IMO2020 marine fuel oil (190 ppm Vs. 1000 ppm), thus by far below the already strict limits prescribed in Emission Control Areas (ECAs) established by International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the reduction of maritime originated air pollution. Besides, from a third-party assessment, from 0.5 to 0.75 tons CO<sub>2</sub> eq. are avoided per ton of marGnet fuel used in maritime transportation. Finally, due to the high cetane index of the fuel, marine engines are expected to be more efficient in

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terms of fuel consumed per number of operational hours. Sustainability is guaranteed because the produced fuel, being marine fuel, has a market value and it is readily usable by the same project stakeholders, in particular fishers. The produced fuels, compliant with ISO8217 standards, will be used as drop in fuels for marine transport.

The LIFE DREAM Project will scale-up the Prototype implemented for marGnet, designing a new portable Prototype to recycle the ML collected by fishers in the PAs linking the preservation of marine environment with the sustainability of human uses activities. The idea is to involve fishers in the prevention of further ML accumulation in the restored sites to maintain the new status of the DR ecosystem. Fishers will recover the ML to be recycled with the Prototype and will benefit from the marine fuels produced creating a self-sustained “virtuous circle”.

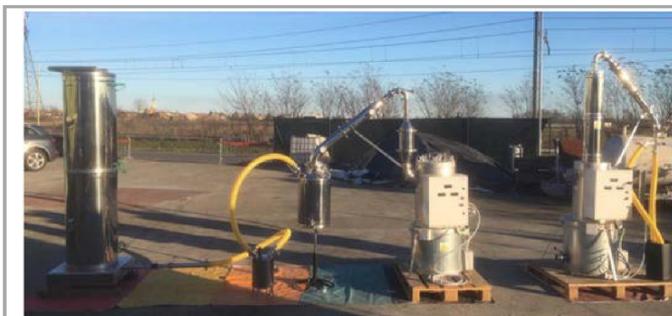


**Figure 3.** Scheme of the circular economy experiment: fishing activities collecting ML from seafloor, recycling of the plastic fraction to produce marine fuel to be used by fishers, benefits for fishers and environments, prevention of further litter accumulation on DR.

Fishing related items, including fishing gears, are considered as the most common litter types in our seas (Garofalo et al., 2020). Loss of fishing gear at sea, both intentional and unintentional, results in marine litter and negative environmental consequences. The most significant reasons for fishing gear loss include inadequate waste management on-board vessels during repairs, catching of fishing gear beneath the surface, and severe weather. One way to address this issue is through recycling of fishing gear. Hence, by assuming a Life Cycle for fishing gears that consists of the stages: i) Design, ii) Manufacturing, iii) Selling, iv) Use, v) Collection/Waste management and vi) Recycling/Reuse.

#### **Methodology.** *The portable low-temperature pyrolysis Prototype*

Waste treatment plants typically need to be relatively on large scale in order to be economically competitive; and therefore, their environmental impact has to be carefully evaluated. In the present case, contrariwise, we expect to deliver a relatively small Prototype dedicated to the thermochemical conversion of plastic ML into marine fuels: readily available products with high economic value for stakeholders. LIFE DREAM Project will scale up and improve the low-temperature pyrolysis Prototype developed in the framework of marGnet project (<https://www.margnet.eu>) in terms of capacity throughout keeping the marine fuel (Marine Gasoil and Marine Diesel oil) as the main desired products. Power generation will also be considered as the final outcome in case the produced products obtained from the Prototype will struggle to get appropriate use. Capacity of the Prototype will be in the order of some 10 liters/day of products. The increased capacity will be attained by means of continuous pyrolysis directly coupled with a continuous distillation and rectification systems. Prototype will be designed in order to be fully portable and without the need of any fixed connections. In this way, the Prototype could be easily transported and independently operated at any site or on board shipping vessels. Thus avoiding to the maximum possible extent the necessity to transport low value waste, LIFE DREAM will introduce the concept of distributed recycling, bringing recycling Prototype close to the source of waste.



**Figure 4.** Image of the Prototype realized for the marGnet project.

#### *Fishing activities*

The fishing activities will be performed in fishing grounds in proximity of the DR of the PAs along their usual fishing routes. Participating vessels will be provided with hard-wearing bags (acquired according to the Green Public Procurement) to collect ML that is caught in their nets, during their normal fishing activities. The filled bags will be deposited on the quayside and managed according to the EU Directive 2019/883 on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships. Litter will be sorted (with the aid of the volunteers that will be involved by FEDERPESCA, ENALEIA and OPP71 having a consolidated interaction with local volunteers) and the useful fraction to be recycled will be stored for its subsequent degradation through the pyrolysis process. The fraction that cannot be recycled will be placed in the appropriate container and go through established harbour waste management systems.

The Spanish ports close to the PA 3 are Almería and Adra, where in 2019 employed fishers were 226 and 90 respectively. Fishing effort in these two ports has been barely constant during the last five years, and accounts for 30 trawlers and 25 vessels dedicated to artisanal fishery in Almería and 2 trawlers in Adra. The Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Almería (**OPP71**) is an associated partner of the LIFE DREAM and is already involved in two F4L projects ("Basuras marinas": <https://franciscosobrado.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=d2ea65a02fc045fdb80d30bbd8b5d1c1&autoplay> and "Mares Circulares": <https://vertidoscero.com/mares-circulares/>). LIFE DREAM will create **synergies** with these projects making available the Prototype for recycling the plastic coming from the already ongoing F4L activities in the PA.

The Greek fishing port closest to Sporades islands and the NMPANS, where most trawl vessels dock, is Kymi, where we expect to involve trawl fishers operating in the territorial borders of the NMPANS, as trawling is prohibited inside the Park. Furthermore, it should be noted that the annual fishing season for trawlers in Greece lasts from October until May, so the fishing activities in Greece will take place accordingly. Then, purse seiners who fish in the Parks territorial waters for small pelagics, as well as small scale fishers from local fishing communities and also those targeting large pelagics will be also involved in activities preventing the production of litter. In particular, as Volos is the main port of the Region of Thessaly and serves also as a key docking area for purse seiners, a dedicated effort will be exerted by ENALEIA with the support of the regional administrators to promote the waste management of damaged fishing nets from these vessels, that will be subsequently handled keeping the suitable parts for recycling and fuel production using the Prototype that will be demonstrated in Volos. ENALEIA will facilitate the engagement of 46 fishers, out of the total 700 fishers involved in Mediterranean CleanUp Greece, furthermore it will facilitate the engagement of more than 70 fishers, out of the total 605 fishers directly involved in the Mediterranean CleanUp project Italy.

In Italy, the Monopoli fleet, including trawlers, longliners and artisanal fishery, comprises ca. 100 vessels and 200 fishers, while at Ischia, 67 fishery vessels employed in different metiers exist, for a total of ca. 300 people involved. At Procida 4 trawlers, 5 vessels operating with driftnets and 15 vessels for artisanal fishery, for a total of ca. 200 operators occur. Right now, there are not ongoing F4L initiatives in the Italian PAs, so that LIFE DREAM will involve directly the fishers (thanks to FEDERPESCA), that will provide the plastic to be recycled and will be incentivized by the provision of free marine fuel produced within the project.

LIFE DREAM Project will **not give extra funding for F4L activities** in the 3 MS but will incentivise the fishers giving them the marine fuel produced by the project for free. The project will financially support only the logistic operation, where needed, providing jute bags for waste disposal, containers for waste storage, and support for the waste management in the involved port.

PA	PORT	N° VESSELS	N° FISHERS	N° DAYS
1	Monopoli (Italy)	2	11	20

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1	Mola di Bari (Italy)	2	11	20
2	Procida (Italy)	5	20	100
2	Ischia (Italy)	2	10	20
2	Salerno (Italy)	2	10	20
3	Almería (Spain)	3	18	20
3	Adra (Spain)	2	12	20
4	Kymi (Greece)	3	36	40
4	Volos (Greece)	2	6	40
<b>TOT</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>320</b>

**Table 2.** Ports involved in F4L activities, with the number of vessels, fishers and the fishing days. We expect the numbers to increase thanks to the dissemination and awareness events planned during the project.

The Prototype will be based in the Procida harbour (Region of Campania), where fishers will bring ML collected during the 100 planned fishing days to the collection point provided by FEDERPESCA that will periodically assist fishers in this operation. The Prototype will be transported from Procida to the other 10 preliminary selected fishing ports (Ischia, Salerno, Monopoli, Mola di Bari in Italy, Almería and Adra in Spain, Kymi and Volos in Greece) where the Prototype will be hosted for the entire period of the planned fishing activities for the number of vessels, fishers and fishing days) to demonstrate its functioning. During this period, we will organize two training days in each harbour for fishers and volunteers identified and engaged. From a preliminary survey, we expect to involve at least 10 vessels per PA in the fishing days, especially trawlers, and the number of fishers we expect to participate in fishing activities could be considerably greater, according to the recruitment activities planned.

A "user friendly" APP will be produced and installed on the fishers and captain smartphones. The APP is functional for storing the data collected by fishers during fishing activity in relation to waste accidentally captured and dropped on board the boats. The APP will contain the instructions to be followed by the personnel on board. The personnel in charge on board will enter in the APP all the quantitative and qualitative data of the anthropogenic waste embarked also thanks to the first selection made on board among plastic waste and others in general, as well as information relating to the characteristics of the catch (code, date, start/end geographical coordinates, fishing hours). These data will subsequently be completed with the addition of the weighing of the plastic fraction to be recycled and the amount of marine fuel produced. The data recorded on the APP will then be transmitted via the internet to the LIFE DREAM website that will show the trend of variables. It will also be possible to upload photographs and videos of the waste collected and of the plastic disposal and recycling operations; this collection of photo and video material can be used in dissemination actions.

#### *Responsible waste management practice (fishing gear supply chain)*

In the LIFE DREAM Project, we will estimate the Costs and Benefits for the key players of the fishing gears supply chain, namely manufacturers, assemblers or netting companies, suppliers and end users (fishers), by using Cost and Benefits found in the literature (Feary et al., 2020, Juan et al., 2021, Weißbach et al., 2021), and the results of the questionnaires carried out on the framework of the LIFE DREAM Project. Different types of gears, i.e. bottom trawls, pelagic trawls and nets etc., meeting different stakeholders' needs, will be considered. Moreover, in our analysis we will consider the costs and benefits derived from the implementation of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Recommendation on the regional marking of fishing gear (GFCM/42/2018/11), according to which "passive fishing gear, such as set nets, pots, lines and longlines, used by fishing vessels larger than 15 meters in length overall and authorized to fish for species managed by the GFCM in its area of application, should be marked in such a way that it can be readily identified".

#### **5. Assessment of the Impact of the area-based measures on DR and local economy**

**Concept.** Monitoring the effects of the restoration activities is crucial to determine whether remediation plans are effective, representing knowledge that may be used to inform future projects. For restoration purposes, data collection should be performed at suitable spatial and temporal scales, providing a long-term series of information about recovery progress, success or failure (Van Dover et al., 2014).

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Such a need of continuous acquisition of data on deep habitats would, however, require a large amount of time and funds to be fulfilled. Recently, permanent networks of seabed and water-column fixed platforms have been implemented to cooperatively measure biological and environmental (physicochemical) variables (Aguzzi et al., 2019). The successful integration of such platforms equipped with camera systems, multi-parametric bio-geochemical, oceanographic, and biological sensors ensures a remote, long-term monitoring of the deep-sea habitats.

The information from remote monitoring networks may be used also to assess the ecosystem services associated with DR habitats. The latter are recognized to play a set of relevant ecological and ecosystem roles, by:

- representing nursery or refuge areas for several commercially harvested species, therefore contributing to provisioning ecosystem services (see for example Woodhead et al., 2019). They act as Essential Fish Habitats (EFH, i.e. volumes of water and areas bottom substrates that provide the most favourable habitats for fish populations to spawn, feed and mature throughout their full life) (Capezzuto et al., 2018). Thus, their conservation may generate an increase in the biomass of fish and other commercial species also affecting adjacent fishing grounds (D'Onghia et al., 2019);
- enhancing CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration as natural carbon sink thanks to their carbonate skeleton and thus contributing to mitigate ocean acidification (Kinsey and Hopley, 1991);
- habitat provisioning for other species, thus ensuring high levels of biodiversity and contributing to higher resilience (Danovaro et al., 2010; Foley et al., 2010);
- potential serving as archives recording intermediate water temperature changes, thus serving as a good climate change proxy (Bonneau et al., 2018; Montero-Serrano et al. 2013; Raddatz et al., 2016; Thiagarajan et al., 2014);
- representing cultural heritage with spiritual, scientific and educational values.

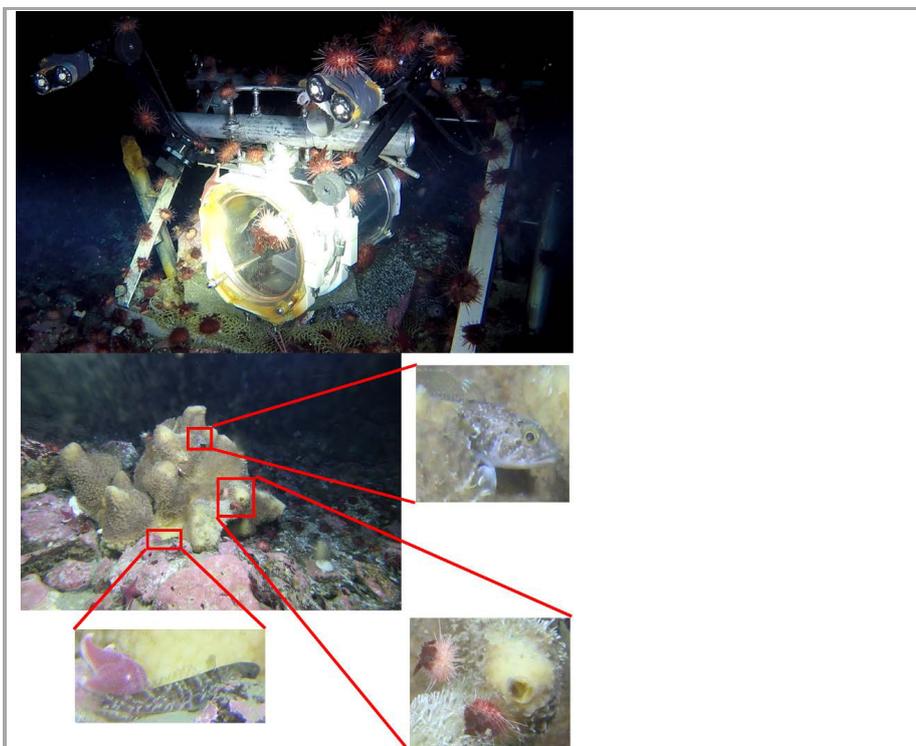
LIFE DREAM will exert particular efforts on sustaining restoration monitoring to evaluate success even after the lifetime of the project. The effectiveness of the LIFE DREAM area-based measures and their potential positive impacts on DR health status (e.g. the improvement in the conditions and dimensions of structuring species, and the reduction of ML and its relative physical damages, MARS colonization) will be monitored by integrating remote technology with deep-learning approaches.

An assessment of the ecosystem services provided by DR will also be performed within the Project, integrating data analysis with questionnaires to explore the awareness of stakeholders and coastal communities on ecosystem services supplied by DR.

**Methodology.** *Assess the impact on DR*

The monitoring activities will rely upon remote Deep-Sea Observatory Systems (**DSOS**) deployed during the LIFE DREAM Project which will avoid the need for funds dedicated to periodic oceanographic campaigns for monitoring DR in a long-term perspective. The autonomous imaging devices are based on the technology described in the European Patent EP 2863257 B1 - Underwater images acquisition and processing system - and installed on a lander in Antarctica within the ICE-LAPSE project, funded by the Italian program for research in Antarctica ([https://www.facebook.com/Progetto-Ice-Lapse-119221245104728/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/Progetto-Ice-Lapse-119221245104728/?ref=page_internal)). Using HD optical components, the imaging devices equipped with an appropriate lighting system are specifically conceived for autonomous underwater monitoring actions extended in time (>12 months) and will acquire images of the MARS and of the surrounding area, providing detailed information on the organisms colonizing the artificial substrates.

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**Figure 5.** The autonomous imaging device, based on the European Patent EP 2863257 B1, installed on a lander in Antarctica within the ICE-LAPSE project for acquiring HD images of a sponge and its colonizing organisms.

The intelligent imaging device can be programmed according to different application contexts. The program optimizes the image acquisition and processing actions according to the specific characteristics of the subjects (e.g. light conditions, image acquisition frequency). The embedded software manages the logical and temporal flow of the system behaviour to reduce the energy consumption for extending the device autonomy. The device has a small volume and weight and is equipped with an appropriate lighting system allowing deep-sea operations and can be easily installed onboard fixed platforms like landers. It performs autonomous monitoring activities across wide geographical areas, as the observation points can be easily repeated and relocated.

An appropriate lander, equipped with 2 autonomous imaging devices, will be deployed at each studied site with the support of an ROV. Images at regular time intervals will be extracted and analysed for monitoring coral growth and the biodiversity associated with MARS structures (Lopez-Vasquez et al., 2020). A first imaging device will specifically record detailed images of the MARS to monitor the settlement and growth of corals. Computer vision and artificial intelligence analysis approaches will be used for estimating the growth of the coral colonies and for analysing the polyps rhythm activities, as described in (Harrison et al. 2021) and (Zuazo et al. 2020), respectively. A second imaging device will provide wide-angle recordings that will be used for the identification of associated fauna and tracking the increase in biodiversity. The images will be analysed for taxonomic identification providing time-series of the abundances of associated taxa.

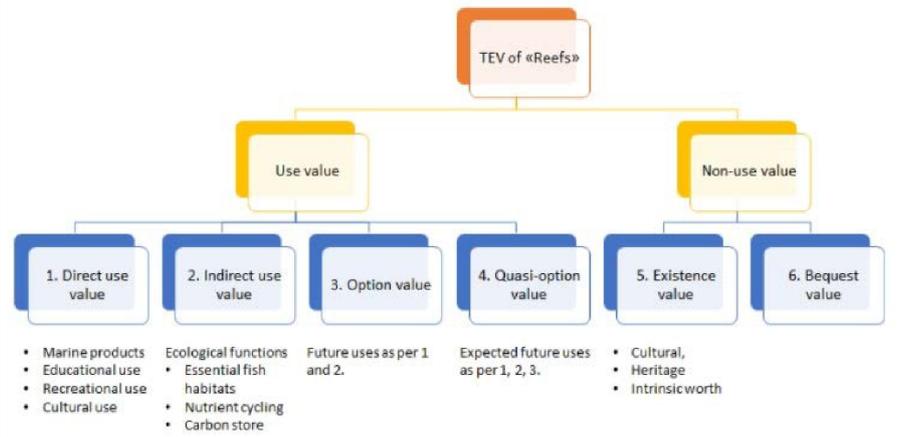
Every 12 months, the landers will be recovered for the battery pack substitution, cleaning the device porthole and lighting system, and downloading the acquired images.

#### *Assess the impact on local economy*

During the LIFE DREAM Project, the social awareness on how DR habitats contribute to provisioning ecosystem services will be evaluated applying both approaches already present in the literature and socio-economic questionnaires specifically addressing coastal residents. Planned questionnaires and interviews will provide further information together with the analyses of data on catch statistics performed for the 3 countries involved in the project.

This assessment will be carried out considering the benefits generated by the project in terms of the main **ecosystem services** provided by DR. To date, a few studies have attempted quantifying such services. Foley et al. (2010) proposed to assign monetary values to CWC, describing the components of

the Total Economic Value (TEV) associated with these ecosystems. We propose to adopt a similar framework (Figure 6) and adjust it to project needs to assess improvements in ecosystem services.



**Figure 6.** Economic valuation of ecosystem goods and services of reefs (modified from Foley et al., 2010).

In doing that, we will consider relevant work that has been conducted globally and the methodologies/approaches used, which encompasses non-market valuation involving coastal residents. For example, in the case of CWC off the Norwegian coast (Aanesen et al., 2015), an experiment showed that CWC are an unfamiliar public good, the value of which is hard to quantify in monetary terms. Understanding the ecosystem services and associated values related to the reef habitats is an important first step to designing their conservation.

A crucial aspect of the LIFE DREAM Project is the involvement of local fisheries that will be performed at different levels. Firstly, fishers, mainly trawlers, will be engaged in ML recovery and fuel production. Interviews and questionnaires on fishing activities and their social acceptance, fishers involvement in such activities and plastic recycle, and ML amount and typology affecting fishing ground will be distributed at the main harbours located in the proximity of the areas targeted by LIFE DREAM Project, during the planned awareness meetings. They will be re-sent by email at the end of the project in order to assess fishers involvement. Both the approaches will aim at i) evaluating the number of fishers aware of the project and the level of participation in the fishing activities; ii) the approximate amount of ML (average/haul or average/day) and the relative percentage of plastics out of the total (on average); iv) the effective use of Prototype and v) the general interest to use it.

The second assessment will be related to the fuel production that will be realised by monitoring the number of fishers accessing the Prototype through the APP, which will provide information on the amount of marine fuel produced. The data collected in this database will provide the link between fishing metiers (small pelagics (purse-seiners), as well as small-scale fisheries including large pelagics) and the typology of ML recovered.

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### 1.5 Upscaling results of other EU funded projects

Upscaling results of other EU funded projects	
CLEAN SEA LIFE <a href="http://cleansealife.it">http://cleansealife.it</a>	LIFE DREAM will benefit from the CLEAN SEA LIFE map of waste sources and its experience in organizing F4L activities, gathering best practices on this topic, and how to ensure its continuation after the end of the project.
LIFE GHOST <a href="http://www.life-ghost.eu/index.php/it/">http://www.life-ghost.eu/index.php/it/</a>	LIFE GHOST is an example of a circular economy based on the removal of Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gears (ALDFG) from shallow rocky habitats, and successive recycling and disposal. LIFE DREAM will scale-up their experience in removing ML from the

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	seafloor (including ghost nets and longlines, where feasible) for the first time in deeper areas. LIFE GHOST produced a protocol for ALDFG local managing authorities aiming at mitigate/prevent environmental and economic damages. This experience will be precious for redacting LDTP.
LIFE LEMA <a href="https://www.lifelema.eu/en/">https://www.lifelema.eu/en/</a>	LIFE LEMA aims at defining a management service for local authorities to select sustainable approaches for tackling the problem of Floating Marine Litter (FML) before it arrives at shore areas with difficult access, or it sinks. A discussion with LIFE LEMA beneficiaries will be promoted, especially concerning the ocean-meteorological models that they developed to predict movement and accumulation hotspots of FML. LIFE DREAM could exploit the LIFE LEMA European network on ML.
LIFE INDEMARES <a href="https://www.indemares.es/en/home">https://www.indemares.es/en/home</a>	LIFE INDEMARES succeeded in proposing and then obtaining the designation of new N2K sites in Spanish marine areas, in particular the SCI ESZZ16003 including LIFE DREAM Seco de los Olivos Project Area was designated. LIFE DREAM will benefit from LIFE INDEMARES' experience in the process of proposing new N2K sites.
LIFE IP INTEMARES <a href="https://intemares.es">https://intemares.es</a>	LIFE INTEMARES aims at completing the work and progress reached during LIFE+ INDEMARES project, achieving a network of efficiently managed marine N2K areas, with the active participation of the sectors involved and research as the basic tools for decision-making. Synergies between the projects would increase the efficiency in terms of marine N2K sites management.
H2020 MAELSTROM <a href="https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101000832/it">https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101000832/it</a>	The project strives to provide answers and diversified solutions to the removal and sustainable treatment of ML legacy in different European coastal ecosystems, compounded with full-fledged circular economy and societal oriented solutions. Synergies between the two projects will facilitate replicability of the LIFE DREAM approach also in a coastal realm and possibly increase the transferability in different contexts.
IMAP-MPA project <a href="http://www.rac-spa.org/node/1919">http://www.rac-spa.org/node/1919</a> <a href="https://www.unenvironment.org/unepmap/what-we-do/projects">https://www.unenvironment.org/unepmap/what-we-do/projects</a>	The project will strengthen and further develop the MPAs network and will support the achievement of the GES of the Mediterranean Sea focusing on the South Mediterranean countries. Synergies with this project are foreseen to enable the transferability and replicability of LDTP and best practices in the North African countries.
EcAp MED III project <a href="https://www.unenvironment.org/unepmap/what-we-do/projects">https://www.unenvironment.org/unepmap/what-we-do/projects</a>	The overall objective is to support the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention and its Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to implement the ecosystem approach in synergy and coherence with the implementation of the EU MSFD. The inclusion of the project in the Network LIFE DREAM will foster transferability of the new approaches related to the MSFD monitoring strategy for D1 and D10 in the Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties.
marGnet <a href="https://www.margnet.eu/">https://www.margnet.eu/</a>	marGnet aimed to set up and test multi-level solutions to monitor, map, prevent, remove and recycle ML from the seafloor. LIFE DREAM will scale up the solution developed within marGnet for the deep-sea environment and at transnational level. LIFE DREAM will benefit from the results and outcome of this project, in particular from the encountered problems and mitigation. LIFE DREAM will scale-up and upgrade the capacity of low-temperature pyrolysis Prototype for plastic litter recycling developed in the marGnet EU project, keeping the marine fuel (Marine Gas Oil and Marine Diesel oil) as the main desired product. This Prototype will be, for the first time, designed in order to be fully portable and potentially applied at any site, and will be demonstrated in all the Project Areas of LIFE DREAM, as well as in a selected location in the south Mediterranean facilitated by UNEP/MAP.

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### 1.6 Complementarity with other actions

Complementarity with other actions	
<p>Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) protocols</p>	<p>The LIFE DREAM Project will apply the MSFD protocols for the assessment of the DR health status during the oceanographic campaigns in the 4 Project Areas. This will be performed using ROV technology also adopted in the monitoring plans implemented within the MSFD (descriptors D1 and D6) to assess the GES of benthic habitats. The assessment of the GES along the transects will be performed using the MSFD indicators: species richness, relative abundance of each individual (number of colonies/individuals per m<sup>2</sup>), percentage of epibiosis and/or necrosis, height measurements of the colonies/individuals). The application of these protocols in the 3 MS will allow comparison of the data in space (between countries) and in time (future MSFS surveys in these areas). In fact, given the cost of the operations in the deep-sea areas, LIFE DREAM will pursue the replicability and transferability of the demonstrated approach fostering transnational synergies among different countries (Italy, Spain, Greece) for an efficient use of the technical equipment within the MSFD national monitoring program. This is particularly important as given the transboundary nature of most of the deep waters, thus EU MS are called to cooperate in order to ensure coordinated and harmonized development of marine strategies at the scale of region/sub-region in the Mediterranean Basin, where EU MS and developing countries co-exist.</p> <p>The LIFE DREAM technical protocol (LDTP) described in section 2.5 aims at establishing curative and preventive management measures, as a first step towards the adoption of specific legislative tools (at regional and tentatively transnational level) to be integrated within the MSFD methodological standards and technical guidance, particularly targeting, for the first time, sensitive and vulnerable deep-sea ecosystems. The integration of the LDTP within the MSFD monitoring programs, will be facilitated by the involvement of the ministries of all involved partner Institutions (see letters of support).</p>
<p>European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)</p>	<p>The LIFE DREAM Project will contribute to the specific objective of the EMFF aiming at reducing the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches. In particular, we will synergically collaborate with F4L activities planned by ENALEIA within the Mediterranean CleanUp project in Greece and Italy in the framework of "Article 40.1.a. Protection and restoration of marine biodiversity – collection of lost fishing gear and ML". In Greece, ENALEIA will facilitate the engagement of 46 fishers, out of the total 700 fishers involved in Mediterranean CleanUp Greece. In Italy, ENALEIA will facilitate the engagement of more than 70 fishers, out of the total 605 fishers directly involved in the Mediterranean CleanUp project Italy. The Mediterranean CleanUp project in Italy currently focuses on educating and incentivizing fishers towards collecting used fishing gear, and in the upcoming months, ENALEIA plans to conduct F4L activities in the respective region. ENALEIA will also facilitate the integration of the collected ML into the circular economy, utilizing its existing partnerships with certified upcycling and recycling companies in Greece and Spain. In Spain, the Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Almería (OPP71) will involve two F4L projects: Basuras marinas, Mares Circulares, and Proyecto Seayourlitter.</p> <p>The idea is to recycle the plastic fraction recovered during the F4L activities already planned by means of the Prototype developed in the LIFE DREAM Project. The aim is to encourage the fishers to recover ML giving them in return marine fuel, fostering the F4L activities, and in the meantime preserve the DR from the accumulation of ML.</p>

**1.7 Synergies and co-benefits with other LIFE sub-programmes**

Synergies and co-benefits with other LIFE sub-programmes	
<p>Circular Economy and Quality of Life sub-programme</p>	<p>LIFE DREAM Project will contribute to the sub-programme “Circular Economy and Quality of Life” facilitating the transition toward a sustainable, circular, toxic-free economy and protecting, restoring and improving the quality of the environment.</p> <p>WP5 aims at developing a circular system, in line with the new Circular Economy Action plan. The idea behind the proposed circular economy experiment is to increase the public awareness about the importance of these charismatic and sensible habitats and foster the establishment of a “virtuous circle” bringing ecological but also economic benefits. In fact, recycling the cached ML producing marine fuel will bring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- an improvement on the waste management with respect to collection and storage of waste, recovery options and end-of-life disposal;</li> <li>- a reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emission in line with the EU legislation and the objectives of the Zero Pollution Action plan;</li> <li>- a reduction of cost for fishers;</li> <li>- the reduction of ML accumulation in DR ecosystems.</li> </ul> <p>T5.1 and T5.2 will particularly address this objectives by recycling the plastic fraction of ML and producing a marine fuel with a sulfur level of approximately 5 times lower compared to conventional IMO2020 marine fuel oil (190 ppm Vs. 1000 ppm), thus by far below the already strict limits prescribed in Emission Control Areas (ECAs) established by International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the reduction of maritime originated air pollution. Besides, from a third-party assessment on the marGnet fuel used in maritime transportation, from 0.5 to 0.75 ton CO<sub>2</sub> eq. are avoided per ton of fuel used by fishers in their activities. Finally, due to the high cetane index of the fuel, marine engines are expected to be more efficient in terms of fuel consumed per number of operational hours. Owing to the limited waste treatment capacity, and the chosen output (the marine fuels) the overall environmental impact, and in particular the associated carbon footprint is particularly small or even neutral. In particular, referring to the Life-cycle analysis of fuels from post-use non-recycled plastics performed in USA using Greenhouse gases, Regulated Emissions and Energy use in Transportation (GREET®) model, non-recycled-plastic-derived fuels could be considered at a minimum carbon neutral with the potential to offer a GHG reduction (Benavides et al., 2017, Fuel 203, 11-22).</p> <p>T7.2 aims to develop a business model for the replication of the circular economy experiment, addressed not only to improve environmental solutions, but also at making sure such solutions are widely taken up by society in general and, more particularly, by the economy through an explicit market-oriented approach.</p>

**1.8 Synergies and co-benefits with other EU policy areas**

Synergies and co-benefits with other EU policy areas	
<p>European Green Deal: Blue Economy, Blue Growth and energetic transition</p>	<p>The European Green Deal aims at boosting the efficient use of natural resources by moving to a clean, circular economy and stopping climate change, reversing biodiversity loss and cutting pollution. The Deal acknowledges the crucial role of seas and oceans in the fight against global warming and nature collapse, proposing concrete actions targeting: i) fisheries to reduce the adverse impacts of fishing on ecosystems; ii) conservation of marine biodiversity designating additional protected areas (properly managed).</p> <p>Tackling the climate and biodiversity crises not only requires healthy seas but also a sustainable use of their resources. In this sense, the Blue Economy and Blue Growth strategies target at reducing the</p>

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	<p>environmental and climate impact of marine sectors (e.g., fisheries, aquaculture, coastal tourism, maritime transport) and their future growth. Transitioning to a sustainable blue economy requires investing in approaches for a sustainable resources exploitation and reduction of emissions, such as the development of innovative fuels and fishing gear or the restoration of impacted marine ecosystems.</p> <p>The EU Commission considers healthy oceans as a precondition for an efficient blue economy. The climate crisis together with pollution, overfishing and habitat destruction are threatening the rich marine biodiversity that the blue economy depends on. Among the fundamental axes of the Blue Growth and Economy strategies are: (i) Knowledge of the marine environment; (ii) Maritime spatial planning, and (iii) Integrated maritime surveillance. In this context, the LIFE DREAM Project will integrate marine knowledge and promote the access to information about marine natural resources and maritime spatial planning to ensure efficient and sustainable management of activities at sea. This will be achieved fostering the collaboration between European countries within different and transversal environmental policies, directly linking the biodiversity of marine habitats and their recovery (restoration) from impacted status with ecosystems services they supply. LIFE DREAM will generate a scalability plan for the large-scale restoration including society, governance and funding systems to upscale restoration and allow replicability across EU seas. This will foster new policy initiatives and governance approaches at different governmental levels (from local to international) to promote restoration actions of marine habitats that are the most exposed to environmental threats and global change. Costs and benefits of marine restoration at the EU level and their implementation over time will be assessed. Restoration actions will be planned with supportive management practices to reduce pressures and direct habitat damage at the local scale and empower civil society in planning restoration and maintenance of its achievements to support restoration efforts in the long term.</p> <p>The project will also contribute to the objectives of the EU commitment to reduce emissions by 50-55% by 2030 and become net carbon-neutral by 2050 with a sustainable and green approach based on circular economy principles. By converting ML into fuel whose production reduces the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.</p>
Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)	<p>The CFP is a set of rules for sustainably managing European fishing fleets and conserving fish stocks. Particular attention is paid to the environmental, economic and social dimensions of fisheries. To do so, stakeholders involvement plays a major role in ensuring a sustainable use of fishery resources. The project includes the strong involvement of stakeholders, in particular fishers, in the project activities (such as F4L practices at Mediterranean scale) to prove the sustainability of the approach proposed by LIFE DREAM in relation to: i) the marine litter, ii) the waste management practice, and iii) the fishing gear supply chain, in particular related to the discarded fishing gear that are impacting vulnerable habitats in the Mediterranean Sea, relevant for the work of the GFCM, and in line with the GFCM 2030 Strategy.</p>
Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (MSPD)	<p>Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (MSPD) set the path towards a balancing between the environmental status of European marine ecosystems and the use of marine resources. By integrating and supporting the free access to information on marine natural habitats and human uses, the results of LIFE DREAM will contribute to the EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (2014/89/EU). The proposal and designation of new conservation measures (N2K sites) in Italy will be performed using a Multi-Criteria approach that follows the MSPD principles, while the scenarios produced by the project in the Spanish and Greek N2K sites will help to fulfil a proper management plan for these SACs.</p>
ESFRI Roadmap	<p>LIFE DREAM will contribute restoration and monitoring infrastructure to the ESFRI Roadmap on service for marine model organisms and</p>

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	<p>habitats. The approaches, practices and protocols tested during the project could be adopted by the European infrastructure part of the ESFRI roadmap, such as the EMBRC (ww.embrc.eu) and made available to the private/public sectors for marine habitat restoration. WP6 will measure the restoration success of maintaining and enhancing natural carbon sinks and other ecosystem services, to significantly reduce the carbon and environmental footprint in the EU.</p>
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## 2. IMPACT

### 2.1 Ambition of the impacts

#### Ambition of the impacts

The primary impact of LIFE DREAM Project is the development of **an innovative, sustainable approach**, by intentions and design, to not only mitigate the anthropic pressure on deep sensitive habitats (DR) but also promote their recovery from previous impacts and convert waste into a resource, closing the loop in a circular economy. Within this context, each task of the LIFE DREAM is specifically designated to multiply the impacts of the project and include actions whose effects will extend well beyond the project lifetime.

Natural **resources management and governance** rely upon the extent to which scientific knowledge is accessed, interpreted and integrated into decision-making processes. The production of spatial data on DR, and their storage and sharing via a freely accessible data infrastructure will sustain the **flow of knowledge from scientists to decision-makers**. A set of indicators describing the health status of DR will be provided by project tasks: species richness, relative abundance of each individual (number of colonies/individuals per m2), percentage of epibiosis and/or necrosis, biomass of colonies/individuals.

By integrating information on natural resources (habitat extension, biodiversity and health status) and anthropic activities, the LIFE DREAM Project will holistically deal with **social-ecological aspects** related to the extension of the N2K conservation network to deep benthic habitats (DR) in the Mediterranean Sea by identifying conflicts between conservation priorities and resources exploitation with a multi-scenario methodology. The project will collect and provide information to support the designation of 2 new deep-sea Italian N2K sites (Bari and Dohrn canyons) and the enlargement of 1 shallow-water N2K (SCI IT9120009), and management recommendations will be proposed for 2 N2K sites currently established as SAC (ESZZ16003 and GR1430004).

A number of international initiatives, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, explicitly link conservation of biological diversity and natural ecosystems with the maintenance of ecosystem services they provide (De Groot et al., 2013). While vital, conserving impacted habitats might not be sufficient to ensure the return to their historical trajectories. This is particularly relevant for biological situations whose natural recovery can take long, such for DR that are formed by slow-growth species. There is, thus, a considerable need to intervene to accelerate this process. For conservation to have a sustained effect and capitalize the related economic efforts, governance should be in place to protect either nearly pristine areas threatened by human activities or those restored from new damage. The LIFE DREAM Project will contribute by **restoring DR** within the PAs with actions for anthropic impacts mitigation whose financing is expected to produce an **economic return** from goods and services provided by the recovered habitats over time.

Restoration actions will concern an area hosting DR of ca. **2000 ha** through active and passive methods. The former is represented by the deployment of MARS which will extend the aerial extension of target habitats providing 80 m2 of new substrate suitable for DR-builders colonization. We expect more than 850 new coral colonies and more than 6000 cm of vertical linear extension of new DR habitats by the end of the project. However, colonies will continue to grow also after the end of LIFE DREAM, with a potential increase in habitat vertical extension up to more than 10,000 cm 3 year after the end of the project, and to more than 12,000 cm 5 years after LIFE DREAM end.

Substantial habitat recovery is also expected after ML removal (passive restoration) along ROV transects which will interest ca. **9 ha**, considering at least 6 transects (200 m each) for each Site. Previous observations in the PA revealed the presence of ML with a frequency of 1 item/100m. We, thus, expect to observe more than 150 items in the PAs. Since about 50% of observed items were represented by ML typologies whose removal would be challenging and dangerous for habitat health, we estimate the removal of ca. 75 items. We anticipate that area-based restoration measures within the LIFE DREAM Project will improve the status of a **number of threatened and/or under protection species** characterizing DR, more specifically: *Eunicella cavolini*, *Paramuricea clavata*, *Savalia savaglia*,

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*Corallium rubrum* for Coralligenous formations in the pilot area (Region of Thessaly); *Neopycnodonte cochlear* and *Neopycnodonte zibrowii*, *Leiopathes glaberrima* for DWOR; *Madrepora oculata*, *Desmophyllum pertusum*, *Desmophyllum dianthus* and *Dendrophyllia cornigera* for CWC (BIODIVERSITY – NUMBER OF SPECIES KPI).

However, the achievement of significant results in terms of conservation and protection of natural resources requires not only an active reduction of the presence of ML on DR but should also encompass actions preventing its future accumulation. Increasing social awareness of the importance of DR and the services they provide and including stakeholders in protection and restoration processes become, thus, crucial.

By cooperating in **synergy** with FFL activities (see paragraph 1.6) already ongoing in Spain and Greece, and with fishers engaged in Italy in the Framework of the LIFE DREAM, we expect to involve 25 fishing vessels (144 fishers) operating in the PAs in the **ML recovery**. Previous fishing activities performed around the Project Areas (see 1.4 for further details) provided evidence that each vessel can recover ca. 1-2 kg of ML per day. Considering the 320 days of fishing activities planned, we estimate a tot. of ca. **8-16 tons** of ML recovered by fishers during the project, and ca. 5 tons in 5 years after the project end.

Following the **circular economy** perspective, nevertheless, the major ambition of the LIFE DREAM Project is to develop an approach that pairs the recovery with **recycling of products and materials at the end of their lifecycle**. A low-temperature pyrolysis Prototype will convert the plastic fraction into marine fuel with a capacity of ca. 50 L from 100 kg of plastics, converting up to **6-12 tons** of plastics into **3,000-6,000 L** of marine fuel classified as “ultra-low sulfur fuel oil” (<1000 ppm) by the project end. The Prototype will operate for 5 years after the project end, increasing the amount of 2° generation fuel created by plastic ML up to 7,800 L. The impact of plastic recycling will be also evaluated through a dedicated APP that will record the quantity of ML plastic fraction recycled and the amount of marine fuel produced. The information on recycling trends will be presented as graphs on the project website and will be available during the project and for 5 years after its end.

The effects of LIFE DREAM actions will not concern the reduction of the current and future impact of ML on DR but will also concur in **reducing the carbon footprint**. We estimate to produce ca. 3,000-6,000 L of 2° generation fuel, avoiding the consumption of traditional fuel (to be estimated during the project activities). The production of this 2° generation fuel ensures to reduce emission by ca. 50% with respect to production of traditional fuel. Also, considering the entire production chain, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are **0.5 to 0.75 tons CO<sub>2</sub> eq. per ton** of fuel lower than with classic fuel and the sulfur level of 96%, 87% and 80 % compared to the fuel sulfur limit established by IMO2020, ISO8217 and ECAs respectively.

Although focusing on specific case-study areas in the Mediterranean Sea, the resonance of the LIFE DREAM Project extends well beyond the PAs borders, providing a methodology that might be applied in different geographical and ecological situations. Activities performed during the LIFE DREAM lifetime would represent the baseline to monitor the effects of ML removal and recycle, and DR restoration. Technical protocols with **best practices** on ML removal operations with the related cost/benefits analysis and on DR restoration will be provided by the project. We expect that the LDTP tested in different contexts (3 EU countries, 3 MSFD subregions) will contribute to strengthening the MSFD common implementation strategy, specifically in relation to Descriptors 1, 6 and 10.

To enhance the impact of the project and boost a behaviour change, LIFE DREAM aims at involving more than 140 fishers into ML accumulation prevention activities and plastic ML recycling. Moreover, the project will **involve stakeholders**, general public, competent authorities and managers of the marine environment, marine resource users, industries, scientists and students. To explore the awareness of stakeholders and general public on the issues addressed by the project, more than **175 questionnaires** will be distributed during project social events and after the end of the project.

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## 2.2 Credibility of the impacts

Credibility of the impacts

**Scientific knowledge.** The data reviewed, collected and produced during the LIFE DREAM Project will be managed, stored and made available through the CNR Spatial Data Infrastructure, also after the end of the project. The CNR boasts a long experience in managing multidisciplinary data as documented by its involvement as data manager in national and international projects (see the participant info table for more details).

**Extension of N2K network.** The success in designing/enlargement the new 3 Italian N2K sites will be guaranteed by the support of the regional and national competent authorities. In particular, the Region of Apulia will be responsible for the task dedicated to the SDF submission, and the Region of Campania is a supporter of the LIFE DREAM Project, as well as the Ministry of Ecological Transition - Directorate for the Sea and the Coast (MAC). The Project has the support of the NMPAN in Greece and FB in Spain for operating in the 2 SACs (NUMBER OF NEW N2K SITE TARGETED KPI).

**Active restoration of DR.** Actions will increase the aerial extension of DR formed by DR by providing new substrate for habitat-building species. Information in the literature on CWC settlement and growth from aquaria and in-situ observations show new colonies density of 0.93 to 10.69 colonies m<sup>-2</sup> (Larcom et al., 2014) (DENSITY OF NEW CORAL COLONIES COLONIZING MARS KPI) with a growth rate up to 1.5 cm/yr of vertical linear extension (Orejas et al., 2008). The number of new CWC colonies expected by the end of the project can be estimated as follows:

Density (colonies m<sup>-2</sup>) \* MARS surface = number of new colonies

Considering 20 MARS deployed for every PA, active restoration activities will provide 80 m<sup>2</sup> of new substrate for CWC settling and growing, restoration activities on CWC are expected to provide 0.93 colonies m<sup>-2</sup> \* 80 m<sup>2</sup> = 74.4 new colonies or 10.69 colonies m<sup>-2</sup> \* 80 m<sup>2</sup> = 427.6 new colonies. The cumulative size of the new colonies resulting from restoration activities is calculated with the following equation:

Growth rate (cm/year) \* project years \* num. new colonies = size of new colonies

resulting in colonies of ca. 7.5 cm (1.5 cm \* 5 years) in height (VERTICAL LINEAR EXTENSION COLONIES OF DR COLONIZING MARS KPI), corresponding to 558-6,414 cm of new of CWC habitat (7.5 cm \* 74.4 – 855.2 colonies). Coral growth will continue after the project end, with the extension of newly formed CWC habitat expected to reach 892.8-10,262.4 cm 3 years after the project end, and 1,116-12,828 cm 5 years after the LIFE DREAM end.

**Passive restoration of DR.** Habitat recovery is also expected with passive restoration, i.e., ML removal along ROV transects. A total of 26 ROV in 4 PAs will be performed within the LIFE DREAM Project where ML will be removed. The area interested by these activities can be estimated with the following:

Transect length \* Transect width \* num. transects = passive restoration activity area

Considering at least 6 ROV transects (600 m of length x 6 m width) for each Sites (13 considering all PAs), the total area interested by passive restoration activities will be of ca. 9 ha (600 m \* 6m \* 2 transects \* 13 Sites) (BIODIVERSITY – HABITATS KPI).

In previous ROV surveys performed in the PAs, ca. 1item/100m was observed. Considering the length covered by the transects (ca. 15.6 km), we estimate to observe ca. 156 ML items. Since about 49% (from previous investigation in the PAs) of observed items were represented by ML typologies whose removal would be challenging and dangerous for habitat health, we estimate the removal of ca. 75 items (156 items \* 0.49 = .76.4 items).

**Prevention of ML accumulation.** Each vessel can recover ca. 1-2 kg of ML per day. Considering the 25 vessels directly engaged by the project operating for 320 days (see 1.4), we estimate to recover between 8 and 16 tons of ML, preventing its accumulation in correspondence of sensitive habitats. This is a conservative estimation, since the project will operate in synergy with CleanUp projects and, thus, the amount of ML recovered will be likely larger. Since ML recovery will continue after the project end for 100 day/year at Procida involving 5 fishing vessels, the amount of ML recovered is expected to increase to 9.5-19 tons 3 years after the project end, and 10.5-21 tons 5 years after the LIFE DREAM end (MARINE LITTER RECOVERED BY FISHERS KPI).

**ML recycling.** The low-temperature pyrolysis Prototype operating during the LIFE DREAM lifetime and for 5 years after the project end, will convert the plastic fraction into marine fuel with a capacity of ca. 50 L from 100 kg of plastics. Considering 75% of ML is composed of plastic (from previous surveys in the PAs), we expect to recover between 6 and 12 tons of plastic ML that will generate between 3,000 and 6,000 L of 2° generation fuel classified as "ultra-low sulfur fuel oil" (<1000 ppm). ML recovery and recycling activities will continue after the project end for 100 day/year at Procida involving 5 fishing vessels. As a result, the amount of 2° generation fuel produced by ML recycling will increase to 3,562-7,125 L 3 years after the project end, and 3,937-7,875 L 5 years after the LIFE DREAM end (PLASTIC MARINE LITTER RECOVERED BY FISHERS KPI).

**Carbon footprint reduction.** Accounting a fuel density of 881 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, 3000-6000 L of 2° generation fuel corresponds to ca. 2.64 – 5.29 tons, which will increase to ca. 7 tons 5 years after LIFE DREAM (see 2°

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GENERATION FUEL PRODUCED KPI). The usage of this 2° generation fuel by the fishers for their daily activities will avoid the consumption of traditional fuel. Considering the production of 2.64 tons of 2° generation fuel and that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions related to the production of 2° generation fuel are 0.5 to 0.75 tons CO<sub>2</sub> eq. per ton of fuel lower than traditional fuel, we will avoid the emissions of 1.32 - 1.98 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> by the end of the Project (CO<sub>2</sub> AVOIDED EMISSIONS KPI):

$2.64 \text{ tons} * 0.5 \text{ tons CO}_2 \text{ eq. / ton of fuel} = 1.32 \text{ tons CO}_2 \text{ eq}$

OR

$2.64 \text{ tons} * 0.75 \text{ tons CO}_2 \text{ eq. / ton of fuel} = 1.98 \text{ tons CO}_2 \text{ eq}$

This value will increase to 1.57 -2.73 tons 5 years after the Project end:

$3.14 \text{ tons} * 0.5 \text{ tons CO}_2 \text{ eq. / ton of fuel} = 1.57 \text{ tons CO}_2 \text{ eq}$

OR

$3.14 \text{ tons} * 0.75 \text{ tons CO}_2 \text{ eq. / ton of fuel} = 2.73 \text{ tons CO}_2 \text{ eq}$

**Stakeholder engagement and scientific outreach.** We estimate to engage ca. 175 stakeholders (STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED KPI) on the basis of the awareness meeting and workshops planned in the 10 ports involved in the LIFE DREAM Project (see paragraph 1.4). Fishers who will recover ML in the PAs will be 144, in addition, we plan to engage at least 5 persons per port and we believe the number will increase thanks to the activities planned in the framework of WP2 (see paragraph 3.6), such as the awareness events in the schools/museum, the population of the CRM, the joint meeting with the other LIFE Projects, the event dedicated to the business model, and the scientific dissemination.

#### References

Larcom et al., 2014, Deep Sea Research Part I Oceanographic Research Paper 85, 101–109.

Orejas et al., 2008, Coral Reefs 27:255.

### 2.3 Sustainability of project results

#### Sustainability of project results

**Information on DR and human uses.** All data collected with the aim to improve the knowledge base will be available and updated through the Geoportal that will remain active after the end of the project for 5 years. It will be accessible on the project website and continuously updated by the CNR without any further financial support because the database and geoportal will be integrated into the Spatial Data Infrastructure already managed by CNR with funds coming from different research projects and by its technical staff (T3.1). The project website will be regularly updated for 5 years after the project end, reporting also the results from monitoring and dissemination activities (national media and social networks, informative campaigns sustained by MPAs, competent authorities for N2K sites, scientific publications, congresses, and public initiatives). The responsible for dissemination actions will be mainly UNIVPM and Net European Consulting (T2.1), which have proven dissemination experience, and dedicated technical staff and resources.

**Establishment of N2K for DR.** The long-term conservation of the reef habitats will be guaranteed by the extension of the N2K to the DR with the designation of new N2K sites. The competent authorities, involved in the project as beneficiaries or supporters, will follow the administrative process for N2K site proposals, providing feedback about the EC procedure. Within 6 years from when the lists of SCIs are adopted by EC, the sites will be designated as SACs by Italian competent authorities.

**Restoration of DR.** The restoration actions performed within the LIFE DREAM Project aim at creating a self-sustainable, cyclic system where the improved habitat health due to restoration actions is able to increase the overall diversity associated with DR (habitat-forming and associated organisms) that, in turn, concurs to maintain the good environmental status of the habitat and its capacity to adapt to future perturbations (i.e., resilience). The MARS structures, conceived as a bottom permanent installation, will persist in the selected sites well beyond the project end. The biodegradable material will slowly decay over time until only the coral biogenic structures will remain. Thus, the project does not consider further restoration activities in the PAs beyond the project end but includes preventing and monitoring activities to support the natural restoration processes of DR.

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**Prevention and maintenance through a circular economy experiment.** The accumulation of ML in correspondence of target habitats will be prevented by performing F4L activities around the DR also after the end of the project in all PAs with the support of the EMFAF. The LIFE DREAM Project will foster the prosecution of ML recycling activity beyond the project end by promoting the use of the Prototype (T7.2) within F4L independent projects (e.g. Mediterranean CleanUp, Basuras marinas and Mares Circulares projects) sustained by national funds, such as the National Operational Programme for maritime affairs, fishing and aquaculture (FEAMPA 2021-2027) in Italy.

**Assessment of the Impact of the area-based measures on DR and local economy.** The deep-sea observatory systems deployed during the project for monitoring the health status of the DR and the effects of the restoration activities will be maintained after the project end for at least five years.

In **Italy**, the DSOS deployed in the Bari and Dohrn canyons will be included in the EMSO Network (see supporting letters from EMSO Node responsables) as new sites in the marine ecosystem observatories network. This collaboration will ensure the continuation of the monitoring activities in the 2 Italian PAs. Two moorings equipped with multiparametric sensors are currently active in the Bari Canyon, collecting data on a set of biogeochemical and physical parameters along the water column and at the seafloor. While, the mooring in the Dohrn Canyon has been recently officially approved (last EMSO ERIC Assembly of Members, 22nd December 2020) as a new EMSO facility (<http://www.emso.eu/>), funded by the Italian National funding (PON-Insea) that will support the LIFE DREAM Project in monitoring the new DSOS deployed (see Supporting letter).

In **Greece**, DR monitoring in the NMPANS site after the end of the project will be ensured through NOUS (uNdersea vision sUrveillance System), an innovative system that can monitor continuously (24/7) an underwater area of interest controlled by multitasking computing units. High-definition cameras NOUS (uNdersea visiOn sUrveillance System) and Hobo data loggers will be placed in correspondence of MARS to guarantee the long-term monitoring of habitats restoration process. Time series of temperature data will be collected to monitor how temperature variations may influence DR health. The continuation of the monitoring activities in the pilot area after the end of the project will be ensured thanks to the support of the NMPANS (see Supporting letter).

In **Spain**, the deep-sea observatory will be sustained by the CSIC institute facilities, which guarantee to continue monitoring activities in the framework of the MSFD monitoring plans.

## 2.4 Exploitation of project results

### Exploitation of project results

**Improving the knowledge base and the N2K network.** The maps (T3.2) and the scenarios (T3.3.) produced in the framework of the WP3 could represent a basis for developing an effective management and planning of the protected sites inside the Project Areas, mostly in Greece and Spain where the N2K sites are already established but without a proper management plan. The targeted users will be the managers of the already existing protected sites that need to draft a management plan. All the data collected and analysed to evaluate the GES of the DR, could be used by the scientific communities in the 3 MS in the framework of the relative MSFD protocols. In particular, the project will provide all the needed information to include the Project Areas in the MSFD monitoring plan, in particular about the charismatic and vulnerable habitats targeted by the project and not yet monitored in the framework of the EU Directive.

**Active and passive restoration of DR.** The two technologies tested and applied during the LIFE DREAM Project for DR restoration could be exploited also in other contexts. MARS for active restoration designed during the project (T4.2), thanks to their modularity, can be built in any shape and size depending on the requirements of the damaged reef structure without the costs for the conceptualization already faced during the LIFE DREAM Project. The LDTP will allow users to exploit the results achieved by the project about ML removal (passive restoration) in deep environments. It will include all the technologies used in the framework of the T4.1 and a costs/benefits analysis related to the ML removal activities in the PAs. These results could be exploited by: i) companies dealing with waste collection, transport, treatment, recovery and disposal services; ii) competent authorities managing the marine protected areas, iii) the scientific community working on restoration.

**Prevention and maintenance through circular economy experiments.** The circular economy experiment will be described in the LDTP so that it can be used by other stakeholders in different geographical and socioeconomic contexts. The economic feasibility of the low-temperature pyrolysis Prototype to recycle ML and produce marine fuel will be faced in the business model. This tool will help local authorities (e.g. harbour authorities and municipalities) and organizations (e.g. fisher cooperatives) to evaluate the proposed solution and eventually invest in this equipment. The effect of the project results will be related to the number of Prototypes implemented and to the number of fishers reached by

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the projects and engaged by the local managers within and outside the Project Areas.

## 2.5 Catalytic potential: Replication and upscaling

### Catalytic potential: Replication and upscaling

The LIFE DREAM Project will scale up techniques, methods and approaches, described in the paragraphs “Concept and methodology” conceived for DR and applied in 3 MS, in other contexts (shallow reef) and in other geographic regions (North African countries). LIFE DREAM will promote solutions tested during the lifespan of the project including: i) the area-based restoration and preservation measures (e.g. the usage of MARS, the ML removal and the support of the N2K network); ii) the circular economy experiment (e.g. the usage of the Prototype to recycle plastic ML and produce marine fuel), iii) and the application of best practices (e.g. the support of a responsible waste management practice and the costs/benefits analysis related to the ML removal in deep environments).

To date, the main limitation to replication can be identified in the high cost of the operation in deep-sea environments. On the other hand, the economic return coming from the restoration in term of ecosystem services gathered and from the “virtuous circle” triggered by the circular economy experiment could favour replication in different contexts

The WP7 will lead the activities related to the replication and transferability of the knowledge acquired during the LIFE DREAM Project through a coherent package of concretely designed actions:

#### i) *drafting a technical protocol to scale up the project solutions (T7.1)*

The LIFE DREAM Project will draft a technical protocol for ML removal and DR restoration (hands-on manual ca. 50 pages distributed in different languages), including a set of technical procedures, guidelines and best practices for stakeholders designed in agreement with the public Authorities involved in the project as associated beneficiaries and supporting partners (i.e. Regions of Apulia and Campania, Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition - Directorate for the Sea and the Coast, Fundación Biodiversidad of the Spanish Ministry of Environment, Region of Thessaly, Hellenic Republic Ministry of Rural Development and Food - Directorate General for Fisheries, Hellenic Republic Ministry of Environmental and Energy).

The following points will be addressed within the LIFE DREAM technical Protocol (**LDTP**):

- evaluate the damage caused to habitats (and relative ecosystem services);
- evaluate the possibility of removing ML proposing suitable methods/tools;
- evaluate costs and benefits of ML removal (costs-benefits analysis);
- evaluate the need of MARS to facilitate habitat restoration;
- make effective decisions on the final destination of the removed material (full or partial reclaim, waste), since different types of ML need to be classified and different disposal procedures may be required (i.e. Italian legislation DL 152/06);
- describe the recycling process of the plastic fraction of ML by means of the low-temperature pyrolysis Prototype.

The LDTP will consider ROV pilot experiences and stakeholder suggestions including fisherman cooperatives, industries and local/international organizations, to present an innovative and up-to-date approach that relies on operational protocols for ML removal and integrated evaluations of benefits associated with removal operations and related economic costs. It aims at establishing curative and preventive management measures, as a first step towards the adoption of specific legislative tools (at regional and tentatively transnational level) to be integrated within the MSFD methodological standards and technical guidance, particularly targeting, for the first time, sensitive and vulnerable deep-sea ecosystems. The integration of the LDTP within the MSFD monitoring programs, will be facilitated by the involvement of the ministries of all involved partner Institutions (see letters of support). Given the cost of the operations in the deep-sea areas, LIFE DREAM will pursue a replication and transferability of the demonstrated approach fostering transnational synergies among different countries (Italy, Spain, Greece) for an efficient use of the technical equipment within the **MSFD** national monitoring program. This is particularly important, as given the transboundary nature of most of the deep waters, thus EU MS are called to cooperate in order to ensure coordinated and harmonized development of marine strategies at the scale of region/sub-region in the Mediterranean Basin, where EU MS and developing countries co-exist. As an example, the design and development of innovative, adaptive and eco-friendly 3D-printed **MARS** within the LIFE DREAM Project will be an advantage for those who would want to

replicate such structures in other areas of the Mediterranean or outside. The system conceived within the LIFE DREAM Project for habitat restoration is modular and adaptive, thus once provided the design and the 3D-printed mould by the project consortium, future beneficiaries may use the mould to produce the final structure and assemble them in the best configuration adapt to their areas/specific shape of the reef. This would considerably reduce development costs. Moreover, such a modular and adaptive system could be also used in shallow waters, so it could be assembled directly underwater by divers, with no costs associated with large vessel rental for the deployment. In order to guarantee the replication of the **ML recycling operations**, and the usage of the low-temperature pyrolysis Prototype in different areas and contexts we will develop a business model for the replication of the circular economy experiment to promote environmentally friendly and financially viable solutions to the ML problem with selected stakeholders from the LIFE DREAM stakeholders network. In order to ensure replicability of the usage of the Prototype by other stakeholders, in particular fishers' cooperatives and/or small scale/recreational fishery communities, the WP2 will ensure the technological transfer on the use of the Prototype for marine fuel production also after the end of the project, through training workshops organized for different fishers' communities within the project time frame. In support to replicability and transferability of the F4L activities to prevent further ML accumulation, the fishers' cooperatives, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and department of fisheries from the partners countries are involved fostering the LIFE DREAM technical protocol and in particular to effectively motivate the application of the F4L approach adopted within the project in different geographical areas.

*ii) developing a **business model** for the replication of the circular economy experiment (T7.2)*

The LIFE DREAM Project will develop a Business Club that will promote the adoption of a fully operational Business Model on ML removal and their subsequent reuse and recycling, according to the project outcomes and in line with the European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy. The Business Model will address existing challenges in order to promote environmentally friendly and financially viable solutions to the ML problem. A dedicated event will be organised to exchange experience on the aforementioned issues of concern inviting i) stakeholders involved in circular economy business models from the LIFE DREAM stakeholders network, ii) stakeholders from other areas of Europe where such business models have also evolved and good practices have emerged (e.g. representatives from the Circular Ocean in Norway), and iii) high level organizations (e.g. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) and Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) .

*iii) replicating the activities to restore shallow coralligenous reef in the Alonissos Underwater Museum (T7.3)*

The activities for restoration and prevention will be replicated in a different context (shallow coralligenous reef) by deploying MARS within the NMPANS in a properly selected area that will include coralligenous reef of high biodiversity and aesthetic value which are of significant importance to Blue Growth actions. Hobo data loggers will be also attached to the MARS in the NMPANS to provide time series of temperature data, as pertinent changes may have significant impacts on reef. The coralligenous status will be continuously monitoring through NOUS (uNdersea visiOn sURveillance System) thanks to the support of the Region of Thessaly (RoT) that has recently promoted the development of the Underwater Museum of Alonissos which aims to highlight cultural elements of the NMPANS. In this vein, and as the RoT has already established monitoring infrastructures at the Peristera shipwreck transmitting images to the underwater museum of Alonissos (NMPANS), it plans to use similar equipment to on top of the MARS deployed close to the Peristera wreck where diving is possible (ie. at about 30 m depth). This Action will show to stakeholders and the general public the dissemination of restoration efforts of coralligenous reef in the NMPANS fostering the replication of LIFE DREAM restoration solutions and will demonstrate their effectiveness in different contexts.

*iv) replicating the activities to restore DR in the south part of the Mediterranean basin (T7.4)*

A dedicated transferability action will be implemented in collaboration with UNEP/MAP (see Letter of Support) in south Mediterranean countries to promote effective methods and solutions that will emerge from LIFE DREAM to these areas. This will be feasible thanks to the synergies between the LIFE DREAM and projects already active in the area and coordinated by UNEP/MAP mostly linked with the EU-funded ML MED II project, as well as the EU-funded IMAP-MPA and EcAp MED III projects dealing with ML prevention and reduction measures (fishing activities included) and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP). The Prototype will be demonstrated and tested in selected locations where fishing activities pilots will be organized in the respective ports/fishing shelters, where fishing activities will be carried out by UNEP/MAP in the framework of the EU-funded ML MED II project. In this regard the circular economy approach fostered by LIFE DREAM and the most important tangible results and joint ventures will be demonstrated in the south part of the Mediterranean basin.

*v) drafting the **Replicability and Transferability plan** (T7.5)*

The coordinator together with the other beneficiaries, and the associated partners will draft the LIFE DREAM Replicability and Transferability plan (T7.5). The plan will describe the potential for the LIFE DREAM results to be replicated in the same or other sectors or places highlighting the favourable factors and the limits for the replication.

**3. IMPLEMENTATION**

**3.1 Work plan**

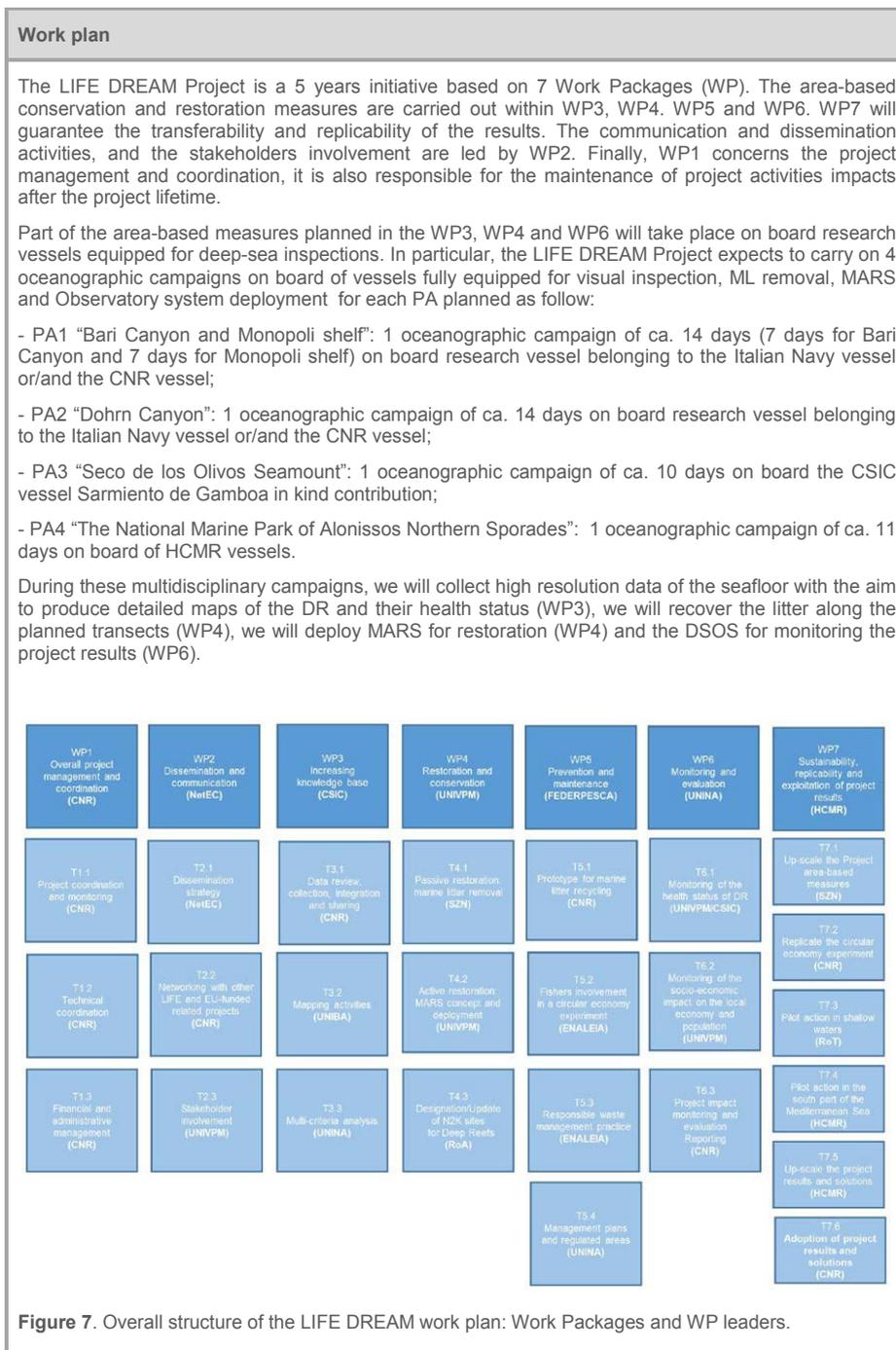


Figure 7. Overall structure of the LIFE DREAM work plan: Work Packages and WP leaders.

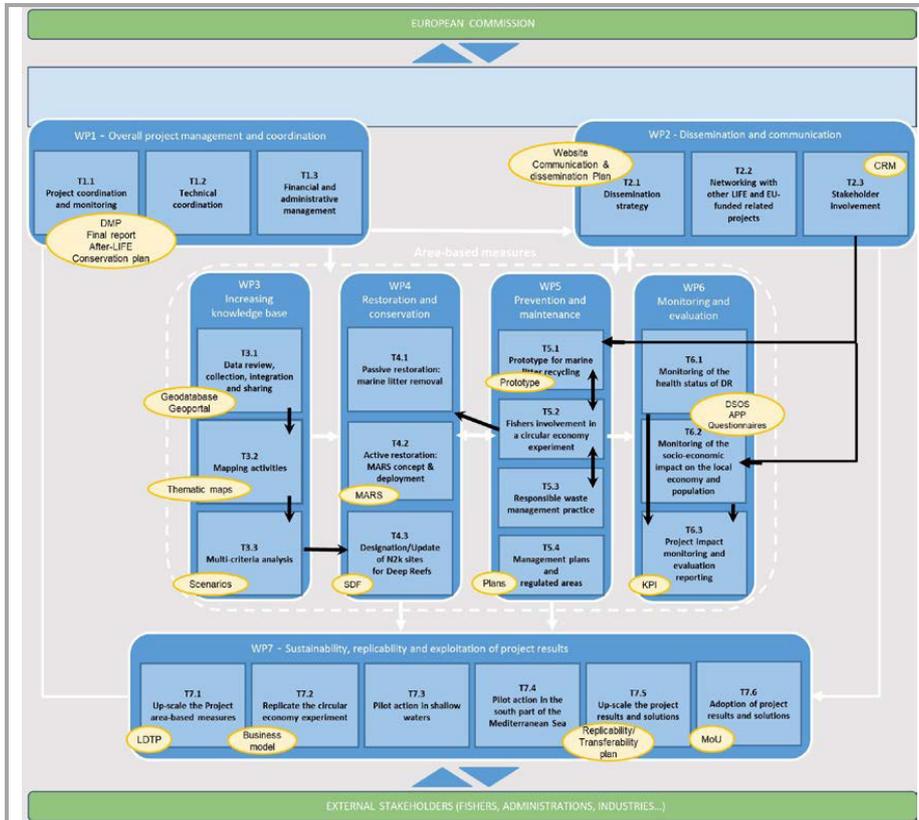


Figure 8. Work Packages breakdown structure, with relationships between WP in white and relationships between tasks in black. In yellow the main outputs.

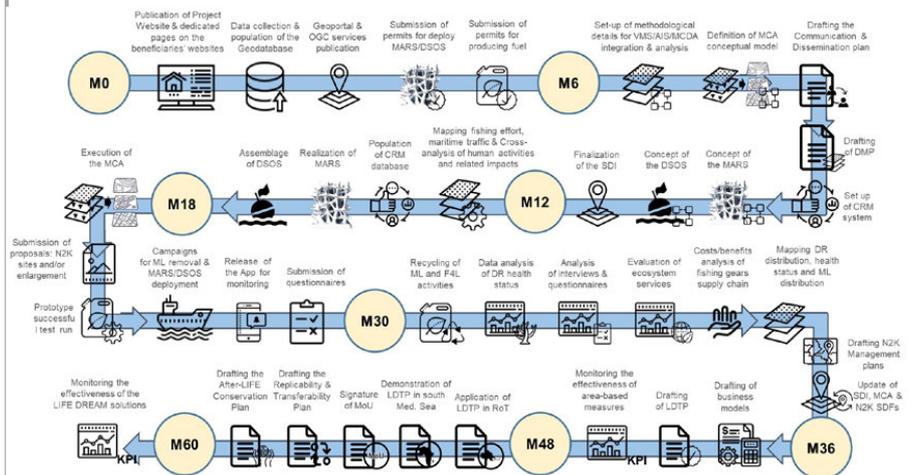


Figure 9. LIFE DREAM Project roadmap with the main steps and products.

**M0-M6.** During the first phase of the LIFE DREAM Project, all the participants will be engaged in the review and collection of all the available information about DR and human activities in the 4 PAs. The data will be included in the Geodatabase and published by means of the Geoportale to be shared among participants. The dissemination team will realise the LIFE DREAM webpage that will also host the Geoportale and the OGS services. In this phase, the iter to get the permits and the licences for the usage

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of the Prototype, the production of the marine fuel, and the deployment of the Modular Artificial Reef Structure (MARS)/Deep-Sea Observatory Systems (DSOS) will be started.

**M6-M12.** The second phase will concern the conceptualization and set-up of the data analysis, of the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, and of the tools to be deployed in the project sites for restoring (MARS) and monitoring (DSOS) the deep reefs. In the meantime, The Spatial Data Information (SDI) will be finalized, the Data Management Plan (DMP), and the Communication/Dissemination plan will be drafted.

**M12-M18.** This phase will be focused on the realization of the MARS/DSOS, the population of the CRM, and the production of thematic maps concerning the human activities in the 4 PAs.

**M18-M30.** In this phase, we will start with the area-based measures: the oceanographic cruises for the Marine Litter (ML) removal along specific transect, and the deployment of the MARS/DSOS will be performed in the 4 PAs, and the Prototype for the production of marine fuels will be tested. We will start to submit the questionnaires during the awareness meetings to fishers and main stakeholders. The dissemination team will realise the App for monitoring the fishing activities for the recovery of ML from the seafloor in the 4 PAs, and the usage of the Prototype. In the meantime, starting from the data collected and analysed in the previous phases, we will perform the Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA) for identifying the areas preserving protection in relation to their conservation value and the distribution of human activities in the PAs. The results, together with the information collected from beneficiaries, associated partners and supporters, will be used to fill the Standard Data Forms (SDF) for proposing the 2 new Natura 2000 (N2K) sites in the Italian PAs.

**M30-M36.** The fifth phase will concern the analysis of the area-based measures: i) DR health status from the transects carried out during the oceanographic cruises, and ii) the questionnaires distributed during the awareness meetings and the workshops for the Prototype training. We will do the analysis of ecosystem services provided by the DR, we will assess their impact on the local economy and population, and we will evaluate the costs and benefits related to the fishing gear supply chain, also considering the information collected with the questionnaires. At the end, we will draft the management plan for the N2K sites, and we will update the SDI and the SDFs with the new data produced.

**M36-M48.** During this phase, we will draft the business model and the LIFE DREAM Technical Protocol (LDTP). At M48, we will report the project results according to the Key Performance Indicators (KPI).

**M48-M60.** In the last phase, we will replicate the LIFE DREAM area-based measures in the pilot area of Thessaly and in the south part of the Mediterranean Sea. At least, we will draft the After-LIFE Conservation Plan and the Replicability and Transferability plan for the scale-up of the LIFE DREAM methods and solutions also after the end of the project. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be sign to ensure the adoption of the project's results by the competent authorities.

### 3.2 Stakeholder input and engagement

#### Stakeholder input

**Who.** The principal stakeholders the LIFE DREAM Project needs to involve are certainly **fishers**, who will be engaged at different levels. Since almost all the Project Areas have been in the past and/or are currently affected by fishing activities, the project intends to reduce the fishery impact on target sites in order to avoid that coral bycatch initiating a change of behaviour of fishers through increasing the awareness. Nine awareness meetings, for a duration of 2 days each will be organized (Task 2.3) in the following ports: Monopoli (Italy), Mola di Bari (Italy), Procida (Italy), Ischia (Italy), Salerno (Italy), Almería (Spain), Adra (Spain), Kymi (Greece), Volos (Greece). involving at least 144 fishers These dedicated events will focus on : i) the damage caused by fishing gears left at sea and entangled on the reef, ii) the possibility to prevent marine pollution from waste, iii) responsible waste management practices, iv) the possibility to change the gears traditionally used by trawlers, having a devastating impact on ocean biodiversity and seafloor integrity, going toward a self-regulated deep-sea fishery management (see Palanques, A. et al, 2018a, 2018b) and iv) the need to protect this charismatic habitat. Regulation to limit fishery in the target sites will be proposed in the framework of the management plans that will be drafted for the N2K sites (T5.4) and included in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the competent authorities (T7.6).

Professional fishers will be involved in the circular economy experiment (Task 5.1), thanks to the synergy with their Fisher For Litter activities that will provide the ML to be recycled by means of the Prototype. The link between the scientific communities and the fishers will be the local **cooperatives and organizations** dealing with fishers and marine pollution, such as FEDERPESCA in Italy, ENALEIA in Greece, and Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Almería (OPP71) in Spain, who participate

to the project as beneficiaries or associated partners.

Apart from fishers, cooperatives and organizations, **coastal residents** will be interviewed by means of questionnaires for evaluating the ecosystem services and associated values related to DR habitats as an important first step to designing their conservation.

The **competent authorities** involved in the LIFE DREAM Project, involved as beneficiaries or associated partners will be the Regions interested in the proposal of the enlargement or institution of new N2K sites, in particular, the Region of Apulia (RoA) and Region of Campania (RoC) in Italy, and the Region of Thessaly (RoT) in Greece. Their collaboration in the project, will consist in the redaction and submission of the Standard Data Form for SCI proposal (in Italy), and in the dissemination, networking and transferability activities of the project. Concerning the potential update of the already existing N2K sites in Greece and in Spain, the project will involve the management authorities of the protected sites (see Letter of support), who will benefit from the knowledge base to be used for the development of the management plans, and for a sustainable fishery according to the new EU fishery regulation. Other competent authorities involved as supporters are the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition (MAC), Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food (MRDF) and the Hellenic Republic Ministry of Environmental and Energy (MEE), the Fundación Biodiversidad of the Spanish Ministry of Environment, that will foster the transferability of the project results also in other contexts. In Italy we also received support from the Monopoli Municipality utility for waste management in order to facilitate the waste management and disposal from an administrative point of view in the port of Monopoli involved in the fishing activities. It will also represent a link with the Municipality of Mola di Bari, another port that will participate in the fishing activities belonging to the same ATO (Ambito Territoriale Ottimale) for the management of litter. The support of Monopoli will facilitate collaboration with the Port Authority (North Adriatic Sea Port Authority) and with the local agencies operating in the field of waste disposal such as AGER (Territorial Agency of the Region of Apulia for the waste management service). We foresee expanding the network of the authorities dealing with waste management also in the other Project Areas.

Organizations for the protection of the environment, such as **UNEP/MAP** and **OCEANA** are interested in fostering the project success and disseminating its results (see Supporting letters). UNEP/MAP, as a regional cooperation platform operating across the Mediterranean Sea for marine protection, will help the LIFE DREAM Project to also reach the South countries of the basin (<https://www.unenvironment.org/unepmap>). OCEANA will support the project at international level thanks to its experience in protecting and restoring the oceans on a global and fine scale acquired during the previous LIFE+ INDEMARES project (<https://oceana.org>).

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (**GFCM**) (informal support received by email) will benefit from the project activities aiming to raise awareness in relation to the marine litter the waste management practice and the fishing gear supply chain in particular related to the discarded fishing gear that are impacting vulnerable habitats in the Mediterranean Sea. LIFE DREAM outcomes are expected to be beneficial for a number of GFCM Strategic activities, including within the context of ongoing activities to address marine pollution. We will ensure that data collection through the project is done in line with adopted regional methodologies and to present the activities and outcomes of the project to relevant GFCM meetings, including the Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC) and the SAC Subregional Committees, as well as to potential dedicated scientific events on this topic, so the results of the project would be comparable to other ongoing projects and can facilitate informing decision makers.

An added value is given by the participation of the **industrial reality** in the development of the Prototype (subcontract) and in the support of all the circular economy best practices proposed in the LIFE DREAM Project and described in the LDTP, aiming at removing plastic waste from the seafloor. The support of the industries will be crucial for catalyzing the project results and promoting recycling and valorization of scrap materials such as plastic waste collected from marine ecosystems.

**How.** Task 2.3 aims at the identification and involvement of stakeholders in 3 phases particularly targeting fishers cooperatives and using the tools implemented in the dissemination actions (T2.1).

Phase 1. Recognition of all potential stakeholders, grouped into engaged and involved, such as: fishers cooperatives, recreational fishers associations, associations of divers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for nature protection, representatives of MPAs and Regional and National Parks on land facing the investigated areas, Port Authorities and Regional officers of Spain, Italy and Greece, involved in permissions releases, mayors and administrators of the municipalities facing the areas affected by the project activities, companies/SMEs providing products and services for marine plastic waste recycling, the scientific community, and finally representatives of Ministries and Regional Authorities responsible of the establishment of management/protection measures.

Phase 2. Involvement of stakeholders. Once identified, each person/group will be contacted in order to investigate their willingness to be involved in LIFE DREAM actions through a presentation email, in the national-related language and also in English with attached the digital pack (T2.1). Those interested will be included in the **CRM** (Customer Relationship Management) system to ensure effective interaction.

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The general public will be reached through social media, local and web TV channels and press releases. Notice boards and the digital pack (T2.1) will be distributed in schools and museums (3 **awareness meetings** per involved country).

Phase 3. Engagement of stakeholders. FEDERPESCA in Italy and ENALEIA in Greece, as well as OPP71 in Spain will organize fishers effective engagement through direct **awareness meetings** (1 for each port involved in T5.1) in order to find synergies with ongoing F4L projects and plan the best strategy to be used in the circular economy experiment. Local authorities (including Port Authorities) and agencies for waste management and disposal, representatives of MPAs and Regional and National Parks on land facing the investigated areas, and other sea operators will be invited to these awareness meetings. In this context, **questionnaires** will be distributed to stakeholders and will provide important elements on their local experience and potential attitudes in relation to the protection of DR and the services they provide, and the waste management and recycling. This survey will represent the baseline on social concepts and respective behaviour and will be repeated at the end of the project and 5 years after, to quantify the number of individuals who have been actually engaged in LIFE DREAM and also shed light on potential changing of behaviours towards more sustainable practices. Ad hoc **interviews** will be performed and shared through the LIFE DREAM Project webpage and social media channels, such as Facebook and Youtube, increasing the social recognition of the involved stakeholders. The engaged fishers and the stakeholders dealing with waste management will be trained through dedicated two-days training **workshops** organized in the three countries, in the 9 harbours involved in the fishing activities and preliminary identified (T5.1). Fishers will be trained to use the Prototype and the APP (T5.2). A similar training workshop will be also organized in cooperation with UNEP/MAP in selected south Mediterranean countries in the frame of the (T7.4).

Palanques, A.; Puig, P.; Arjona-Camas, M. (2018a) Self-regulated deep-sea trawling fishery management in La Fonera Canyon (NW Mediterranean) towards reduction of sediment resuspension and seabed impact. Ocean Sciences Meeting, Portland, Oregon, USA. February 11-16.

Palanques, A.; Puig, P.; Arjona-Camas, M. (2018b) Towards the reduction of trawl-induced sediment resuspension and seabed impact through self-regulated deep-sea fishery management in La Fonera Canyon (NW Mediterranean). 4th International Submarine Canyon Symposium (INCISE-2018). Shenzhen, China. November 5-7.





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### 3.4 Impact monitoring and reporting

#### Impact monitoring, evaluation and reporting strategy

In the framework of the T6.3 “Project impact monitoring and evaluation reporting” we will monitor and measure the effectiveness of the LIFE DREAM area-based measures and their potential positive impacts on DR health status and the potential socioeconomic benefits. The assessment will be inferred from the variations in the LIFE Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), described section 2.1 and reported in the Part C of the application form (both horizontal KPIs for the LIFE programme as well as the specific KPIs relevant for the LIFE DREAM Project).

A continuous reporting about the status of the project will be performed in the Continuous Reporting Module by means of milestones as control points helping to follow the chart progress, and deliverables for the main project output, in accordance with the schedule set out in the roadmap (see sections 3.1 and 3.3).

Coordinating meetings (see section 4.2) will be called by the CNR as Coordinating Beneficiary and each responsible for every action shall elaborate a report about the development of the activities and their conformity to the project proposal and the timetable. Every report will contain progress on the activities carried out related to the specific task evaluating their impact. At the end of each meeting, a minute will be circulated among beneficiaries.

### 3.5 Communication, dissemination and visibility

#### Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding

The LIFE DREAM Project will develop a set of tools and actions fundamental to i) disseminate the project results, ii) encourage transfer and replicability, iii) inform policy-makers at local, regional and EU levels about best practices, and iv) facilitate the networking process. The WP2 will foresee the dissemination of project outcomes through tailored communication tools produced for each stakeholder segment and general public:

- **Website** for the dissemination of project objectives, results and deliverables. It will be in English and represent the main communication tool of the project. It will be designed to allow constant update during the lifetime of the project. It will be kept updated with field activities, events and results till the end of the project and maintained on-line for 5 years after the project end. All photo-video and divulgative material produced during the project will be available on the website, together with documents and links to have more detailed information on project topics. The website will allow access to the LIFE DREAM Geoportale and CNR metadata catalogue (WP3), web services and the Data Policy (WP3), the portal dedicated to the Business Club (WP7), and the data collected by the APP monitoring the use of the Prototype (WP5). Website visibility in search engines will be ensured and statistics will be checked (e.g. Visitors, Visits) to get feedback on the communication efficacy. The website will be online at M6 and will be implemented during the entire duration of the project.

- **Specific page** dedicated to the LIFE DREAM Project on the beneficiaries websites or social media accounts presenting the project and including: project summary, coordinator contact details, list of participants, European flag and funding statement (and special logo) and project results.

- Detailed **marketing plan** that will maximize the awareness of the project, communication and diffusion of results and allow networking with other Life and non-Life projects to be prepared and shared during the preparatory activities of the LIFE DREAM Project.

- A project **identity book** (logo, brand guidelines, on line and off line coordinated materials, on site notice boards, etc.) will also be realized. The LIFE logo will appear on all deliverables. For actions taking place in N2K sites or with the objective of improving the integrity of the N2K network, the N2K logo will also appear.

- A **digital pack** (in English, Italian, Spanish and Greek) will be created and circulated among schools and universities in order to stimulate the creation of a case history on the project and make sure that the project is presented as an example of how EU/Life policies can contribute to improve life and health of European citizens.

- **Brochures** will be prepared: 10,000 copies in color will be printed in recycled paper 2,000 in English and the rest in the partners languages. The brochures will be distributed at national level at: i) natural science museums; ii) touristic and diving offices; iii) Coast Guard territorial offices; iv) fish gross-market; v) workgroups/meetings with stakeholders (e.g., scientific congresses and schools).

- A **short video** (in English and partners languages) will be developed to illustrate the results of the

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project in a way easy to understand for a broad audience. The video will be uploaded on the website, provided to local and web TV channels, and spread via Youtube, thematic virtual networks/communities.

- **Press releases** will be planned to reach a wide public exploiting all media. The first press release will be prepared at the beginning of 2022 to illustrate the project, its objectives and the importance of the project issues in relation to their socio/economic impacts.

- Partners will participate in EU Researchers Night and similar local/international **events** for the general public in which they are already involved, throughout the project duration. These events will also comprise those dedicated to schools, in cross-cutting activities with on-going national educational programs (e.g., PON and PLS projects in Italy).

- The final publication will be a **booklet** (in English and partner languages) in pdf (ca. 50 pages in color), illustrating activities, achievements and actions to undertake to sustain the project results.

- The final **conference** open to the general public will be organized in mid 2026, aiming at giving visibility to the project results, inviting active stakeholders groups. The conference will be attended by ca. 300 people and it will take place in Bologna. Local TVs will be invited and press news sent to major local newspapers.

- The **Layman's report** will be produced in paper (1000 copies) and electronic format at the end of the project. It will be 8-10 pages long and will contain a description of the project objectives, results and actions. Its scope is to provide information about the project in non-technical language so as to be accessible to the general public. It will be produced in English and shared via the project channels (website, social media).

- Interaction with local municipalities in proximity of the project sites will be fostered in order to favor the installation of 25 (5 per each of the 5 areas) **notice boards** in places with high frequentation of general public and visibility (e. g. natural science museums, touristic and diving offices, partners headquarter, schools, MPAs), with brief explanation of the project and reference to Life project. The LIFE Program logo, the LIFE DREAM Project logo, and the Natura 2000 logo will be shown on the on-site panel.

- The dissemination of the scientific results will be ensured through **scientific-technical publications** in international peer-reviewed journals and participation in national/international congresses. The target audience are researchers, academic personnel/staff, students and stakeholders.

- LIFE DREAM will extensively promote the project on **social media**, starting from Twitter, YouTube (used to distribute the training webinars, interviews and videos), and LinkedIn, with the latter being the core for knowledge exchange with the stakeholders' clusters. Social media tools will be used for the continuous promotion of contents available on the website to keep the accounts interesting and engaging for the audience.

- An **ambassador** will foster the sponsorization of the LIFE DREAM Project by means of media and social media, and the sensibilization of the general public about the importance of DR and the need to preserve them.

- **After-LIFE Dissemination plan:** at the end of the project a second communication plan will be produced which will set out the programme for subsequent post-project dissemination activities. The plan will contain a brief description of all the products and activities developed during the project indicating how each communication material (videos, brochures, etc.) will be disseminated and those responsible for dissemination. The plan will outline the dissemination programme through GANTT schemes and tables. The After-LIFE Communication plan and agreements for post-project communication and dissemination will be shared and signed by all beneficiaries.

Following a list of **target audiences** that have been identified as targets for the dissemination activities:

- Research institutes involved in the project (CNR, CSIC, HCMR, SZN) and Universities (UNIVPM, UNIBA, UNINA) will reach academia and the marine scientific communities dealing with monitoring of GES, restoration and conservation of vulnerable habitats and ML mitigation strategies (modeling, mapping and removing). The targets will be reached by publishing scientific results in peer-reviewed journals and participating in national and international congresses focused on biodiversity and conservation actions.

- NGOs and other foundations will organise events addressed to the general audience in order to disseminate the knowledge on marine habitats and their threats to which they are exposed and consequent impacts. This will increase public awareness on LIFE DREAM Project topics. In particular, UNEP/MAP and OCEANA will use their own communication channels (e.g. press release, social-media, websites) to reach an international audience; Fundación Biodiversidad fosters conservation and sustainable use of marine ecosystems reaching the competent authorities and decision-makers.

- ENALEIA, OPP71 and FEDERPESCA will promote the results of the project through i) their regular training activities for professional, artisanal and recreational fishers (in the case of ENALEIA), ii) sharing the LIFE DREAM best practices with other local fishery associations (OPP71) and iii) promoting the project lessons learned to fishery industry at national and international level (FEDERPESCA).

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- The companies listed in the LIFE DREAM Business Club will continue the dissemination of the project results using their own communication channels targeting the industries, fostering green deal implementation and circular economy approach.

## 4. RESOURCES

### 4.1 Consortium set-up

#### Consortium cooperation and division of roles (if applicable)

The consortium is composed of key international partners from three different European countries (IT, GR, SP) and national/international organisations, and includes:

- A set of scientific partners who have complementary competences on deep-sea ecosystems, vulnerable habitats, multiple stressors, restoration and conservation measures: National Research Council (CNR), Stazione Zoologica A. Dohrn of Naples (SZN), Polytechnic University of Marche (UNIVPM), University of Bari Aldo Moro (UNIBA), University of Naples Federico II (UNINA) in Italy, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) in Greece, and Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) in Spain;

- A set of national cooperatives and organizations operated on the territories involved in the project, and representing the users of coastal and deep environments: National Federation of Fishing Enterprises (FEDERPESCA) as partner in Italy, ENALEIA as partner in Greece, and Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Almería (OPP71) as associated partner in Spain. FEDERPESCA is a contracting party to the National Collective Labour Contracts for Sea Fishing and Mechanical Net Producers and will help to engage Italian fishers. In particular, it will provide a suitable location in Procida for the Prototype and will assist its functioning during the project and for 5 years after (<https://www.federpesca.it>). ENALEIA is a Greek social start-up focused on training professional fishers to adopt sustainable fishing techniques and dedicated to the project Mediterranean Cleanup. In the Greek Project Area, it will support the mitigation and prevention of marine plastic pollution by engaging fishers to collect marine plastic from the seabed, and properly managing their used fishing gear. In sequence, in collaboration with certified recycling and upcycling partners, ENALEIA will facilitate the integration of marine plastic into the circular economy, transmitting the know-how to all the relevant stakeholders. ENALEIA also plans to conduct interviews and questionnaires for the evaluation of the project impact on that category (<https://enaleia.com>). OPP71, recognized by the EU Regulation article no 1379/2013, is based in Almería, the closest fishing port to the Spanish PA of the LIFE DREAM Project. The OPP71 is already involved in several projects aimed at the quantification of ML collected during fishing activities. Members of OPP71 will be engaged to select and stock the plastic of collected ML dedicated to the Prototype demonstration in the Almería port, as proposed in LIFE-DREAM. The OPP71 will also support members of LIFE-DREAM during the demonstration days;

- A set of international cooperatives and organizations who represent the role of society in the marine protection and conservation: Fundación OCEANA, UNEP/MAP;

- A set of **competent authorities** interested in the N2K sites implementation or update: Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition - Directorate for the Sea and the Coast, Region of Campania, Region of Apulia, and Monopoli Municipality in Italy, Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy, Hellenic Republic Ministry of Rural Development and Food - Directorate General for Fisheries, and Region of Thessaly in Greece, Fundación Biodiversidad del Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico (Public body) in Spain;

- A strategic consulting company specialized in finding sources of financing useful for the enhancement of companies or projects, aimed at growth and innovation: Net European Consulting;

- The industrial reality involved in the realization of the Prototype to convert recycled plastics into high-quality second-generation diesel with a low sulfur content for transportation (standard EN590) and domestic heating (UNI 6579) and engaged in the CRM for the drafting of the Business model.

The consortium brings together European research institutes and academia dealing with marine environments, international organizations involved in marine conservation and dissemination, industrial partners with expertise in ML recycling, and decision makers, such as Municipalities, Regions and Ministries directly operating in the Project Areas. The LIFE DREAM consortium as defined by partners, associates, affiliates and supporters, will provide the necessary compendium of experience to meet the overall project objectives.

**Competences.** The resulting Consortium includes the following main competences:

- Considerable experience in deep-sea habitat characterization and mapping (CNR, CSIC, HCMR,

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SZN);

- Experience in bio-ecological research including field descriptive research, manipulative experiments and spatial analysis techniques for gaining a better understanding of the pattern of distribution of marine biodiversity and of the processes influencing marine communities (UNINA);
- Experience in the ecology of benthic communities and marine biogeochemical processes, and in pilot studies on marine restoration practices exploring the potential of active and passive restoration on disturbed assemblages (UNINA, UNIVPM);
- Experience in studies on taxonomy and biodiversity of benthic sessile and benthos-pelagic mobile fauna, life strategies and population dynamics of coastal and deep-water species, community ecology from the continental shelf to the slope, animal forests, oyster reefs and coral habitats (UNIBA, UNINA);
- More than 15 years of experience in the analysis of data from different tracking devices (including Vessel Monitoring System – VMS, and Automatic Information System – AIS) and in the development of innovative and open access tools for the reconstruction of fishing footprint and sharing of results with stakeholders, researchers and managers (UNIBA, UNIRO);
- Vast experience on the development and application of state-of-the-art tools for ecological monitoring and assessment, geospatial analysis and modeling, quantification of cumulative impacts of human pressures in the ecosystem, ecosystem based MSP, participatory planning (HCMR);
- Know-how on the inter-dependencies between research and the economy, the society, the environment, policy-making and politics expressed in the project as knowledge and the capacity to deliver an evaluation of ecosystem services, to assess their socio-economic impact on the local economy and population and to contribute to the development of a business model for the replication of the circular economy experiment (UNIVPM);
- Expertizes in educating fishers on sustainable fishing techniques, fishers' engagement, and promoting specific initiatives aimed at supporting the aggregation of fishing companies in the territories (ENELEIA; FEDERPESCA, OPP71);
- Experience in the proposals of measures for the protection of the environment and especially of sensitive areas (habitats etc.) and coordinates the monitoring and environmental protection actions, and in supporting operations aimed at a more rational and sustainable management of marine resources (biodiversity, fish resources) of the coastal territory (competent authorities in the three MS);
- 20 years of experience in the writing, management and communication of international cooperation projects and in the strategic planning of European non-profit organisations (NetEC).

Therefore, the Consortium has all the technical and scientific expertise as well as the links with the other stakeholders necessary to perform the proposed project.

**Experience and complementarities.** The scientific partnership of the Consortium has a large experience in the study of deep-sea environments and the services they provide, charismatic and vulnerable habitats, and in the organization of oceanographic campaigns for the study of DR, as shown by the large number of projects performed successfully by these partners. The associates and the supporters of the LIFE DREAM Project have been operating in the Project Areas for years and will bring the scientific partners closer to the society, in the meantime will increase the awareness of sea users about the importance of DR and of the services they provide. An industrial reality with previous experience in ML recycling and in the production of marine fuel, will be subcontracted going toward a sustainable circular, toxic-free economy and protecting, restoring and improving the quality of the marine environment.

**Cohesion.** All partners have a deep experience in research and development acquired also developing many cooperative projects within the previous EC Framework Programmes. Moreover, most of the partners have already cooperated fruitfully within past successful projects.

Finally, all participants are really committed to the project objectives. These objectives are in fact in line with each partner's strategic objectives and/or institutional mandate. All partners see in the project a strong and sustainable development opportunity.

Number	Acronym	Name	Country	Role	WP	Tasks
1	CNR	National Research Council	Italy	COO	WP1, WP2, WP3, WP4, WP5, WP6, WP7	T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T3.1, T3.2, T3.3, T4.1, T4.2, T4.3, T5.1, T5.2, T5.3, T5.4, T6.1, T6.2, T6.3, T7.1, T7.2, T7.3, T7.4, T7.5, T7.6

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2	UNIBA	University of Bari Aldo Moro	Italy	BEN	WP1, WP2, WP3, WP4, WP5, WP6, WP7	T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T3.1, <b>T3.2</b> , T3.3, T4.1, T4.2, T4.3, T5.1, T5.2, T5.3, T5.4, T6.1, T6.2, T6.3, T7.1, T7.5
3	HCMR	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research	Greece	BEN	WP1, WP2, WP3, WP4, WP5, WP6, <b>WP7</b>	T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T3.1, T3.2, T3.3, T4.1, T4.2, T4.3, T5.1, T5.2, T5.3, T5.4, T6.1, T6.2, T6.3, T7.1, T7.2, T7.3, <b>T7.4, T7.5</b>
4	NetEC	Net European Consulting	Italy	BEN	WP1, <b>WP2</b>	<b>T1.1</b> , T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.3
5	ENALEIA	ENALEIA AMKE	Greece	BEN	WP1, WP2, WP5, WP6, WP7	T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, <b>T5.2, T5.3</b> , T5.4, T6.2, T7.1, T7.5
7	UNIVPM	Polytechnic University of Marche	Italy	BEN	WP1, WP2, WP3, <b>WP4</b> , WP6, WP7	T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, <b>T2.3</b> , T3.1, T3.2, T3.3, <b>T4.2</b> , T4.3, <b>T6.1</b> , <b>T6.2</b> , T6.3, T7.1, T7.2, T7.5
8	CSIC	Spanish National Research Council	Spain	BEN	WP1, WP2, <b>WP3</b> , WP4, WP5, WP6, WP7	T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T3.1, T3.2, T3.3, T4.1, T4.2, T4.3, T5.1, T5.2, T5.3, T5.4, <b>T6.1</b> , T6.2, T6.3, T7.1, T7.2, T7.5
9	UNINA	University of Naples Federico II	Italy	BEN	WP1, WP2, WP3, WP4, WP5, <b>WP6</b> , WP7	T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T3.1, T3.2, <b>T3.3</b> , T4.1, T4.2, T4.3, T5.2, T5.4, T6.1, T6.2, T6.3, T7.1, T7.5
10	RoA	Region of Apulia	Italy	BEN	WP1, WP2, WP4, WP5, WP6, WP7	T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.3, <b>T4.3</b> , T5.2, T5.4, T6.2, T7.5, T7.6
11	RoT	Region of Thessaly	Greece	BEN	WP1, WP2, WP4, WP5, WP6, WP7	T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.3, T4.2, T4.3, T5.2, T5.4, T6.1, T6.2, <b>T7.3</b> , T7.5, T7.6
12	SZN	Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn of Naples	Italy	BEN	WP1, WP2, WP3, WP4, WP6, WP7	T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T3.1, T3.2, T3.3, <b>T4.1</b> , T4.2, T4.3, T6.1, T6.2, T6.3, <b>T7.1</b> , T7.5
13	FEDERPESCA	National Federation of Fishing Enterprises	Italy	BEN	WP1, WP2, <b>WP5</b> , WP6, WP7	T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T5.1, T5.2, T5.3, T5.4, T6.2, T7.1, T7.5
13	OPP71	Organización de Productores Pesqueros de	Spain	AP	WP1, WP2, WP5, WP6,	T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3,

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		Almería			WP7	T5.2, T5.3, T5.4, T6.2, T7.1
14	UNIRO	University of Rome Tor Vergata	Italy	AP	WP3	T3.2
-	RoC	Region of Campania	Italy	SUP	WP2, WP4, WP5, WP6	T2.1, T2.3, T4.3, T5.2, T5.4, T6.2, T7.6
-	UNEP/MAP	UN Environmental Programme - Mediterranean Action plan Barcelona Convention	-	SUP	WP2, WP4	T2.1, T2.3, T7.4
-	FB	Fundación Biodiversidad	Spain	SUP	WP2	T2.1, T4.3, T7.6
-	MAC	Ministry of Ecological Transition - Directorate for the Sea and the Coast	Italy	SUP	WP4	T4.3, T7.6
-	MM	Monopoli Municipality	Italy	SUP	WP5	T5.2, T5.4, T7.6
-	MRDF	Hellenic Republic Ministry of Rural Development and Food - Directorate General for Fisheries	Greece	SUP	WP4	T4.3, T7.6
-	MEE	Hellenic Republic Ministry of Environmental and Energy	Greece	SUP	WP4	T4.3, T7.6
-	OCEANA	Fundación Oceana	-	SUP	WP2	T2.1
-	EMSO Network	InSEA / EMSO Network	-	SUP	WP6	T6.1
-	EMSO - SSA	RU EMSO-Italia - South Adriatic Sea / E2M3A	-	SUP	WP6	T6.1
-	MNPANS	The National Marine Park of Alonissos Northern Sporades	Greece	SUP	WP6, WP7	T6.1, T7.3, T7.6

**Table 3.** List of the Participants in the LIFE DREAM Project with acronym, name, country of origin, role in the consortium, and WP and task in which they participate. Coordinator (COO), Beneficiaries (BEN), Associated Partners (AP), Supporter (SUP). In bold the WP/Task of which they have the leadership.

## 4.2 Project management

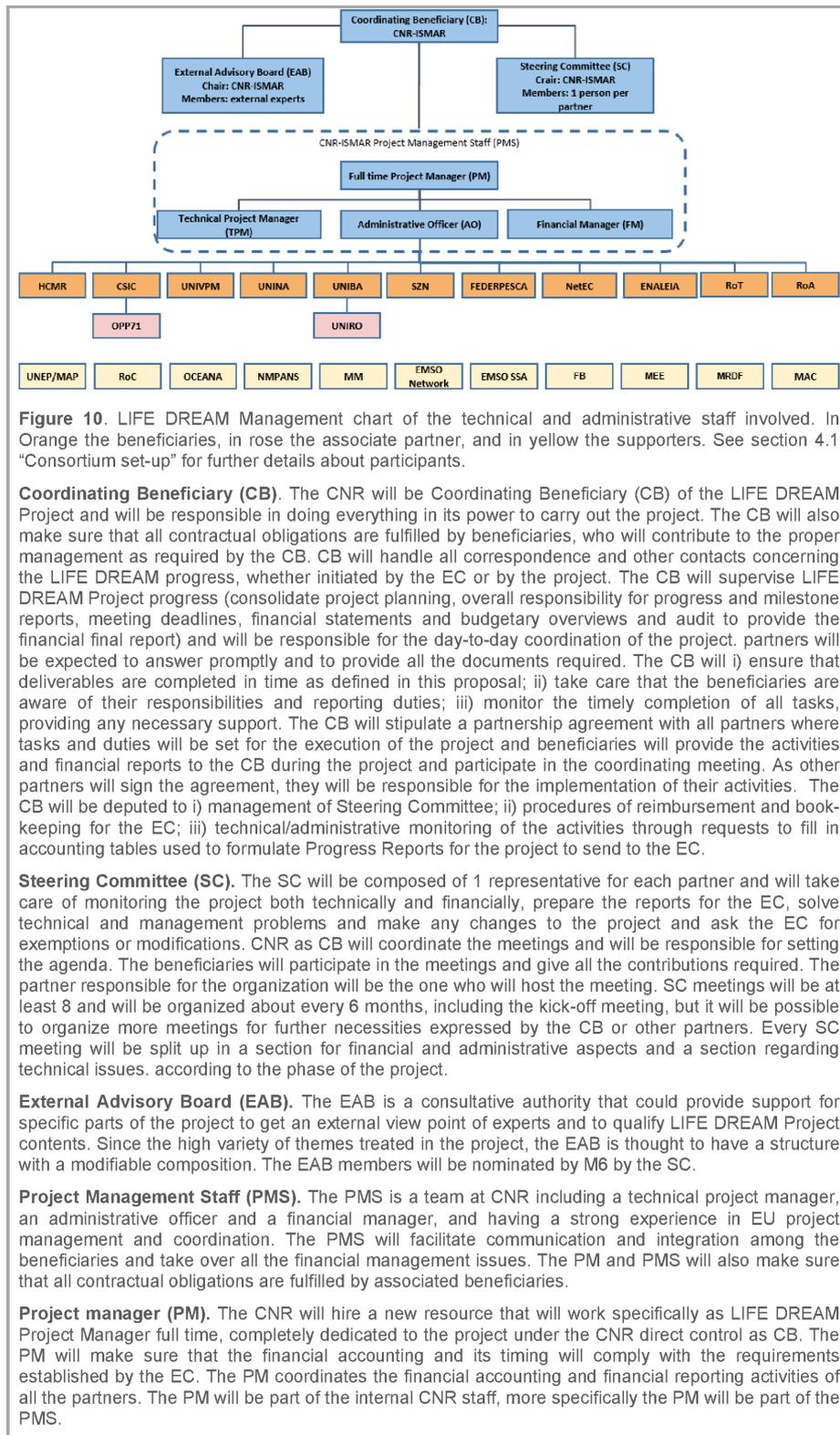
### Project management, quality assurance and monitoring of progress

#### Overall project management and structure

The project management and coordination will be in charge of CNR that will ensure a sound, effective and efficient management of the whole LIFE DREAM Project in order to coordinate all the beneficiaries and the institutes supporting the LIFE DREAM Project (WP1). CNR will i) provide top level management of the project to ensure that its objectives, deliverables and beneficiaries tasks and reports are efficiently and successfully met on time, within the limits of the resources budgeted; ii) facilitate communication and integration among beneficiaries and supporting institutes; iii) provide effective reporting and communication within LIFE DREAM Project and the European Commission (EC) and other external actors; iv) technically and administratively support the beneficiaries and the LIFE DREAM Project committees/boards to prepare and execute major meetings and obligations.

Project management will last for the whole project duration: 60 months (July 2022 - July 2027).

The project management structure is represented in the management chart of the technical and administrative staff involved (Figure 10) and described in this paragraph.



**Figure 10.** LIFE DREAM Management chart of the technical and administrative staff involved. In Orange the beneficiaries, in rose the associate partner, and in yellow the supporters. See section 4.1 "Consortium set-up" for further details about participants.

**Coordinating Beneficiary (CB).** The CNR will be Coordinating Beneficiary (CB) of the LIFE DREAM Project and will be responsible in doing everything in its power to carry out the project. The CB will also make sure that all contractual obligations are fulfilled by beneficiaries, who will contribute to the proper management as required by the CB. CB will handle all correspondence and other contacts concerning the LIFE DREAM progress, whether initiated by the EC or by the project. The CB will supervise LIFE DREAM Project progress (consolidate project planning, overall responsibility for progress and milestone reports, meeting deadlines, financial statements and budgetary overviews and audit to provide the financial final report) and will be responsible for the day-to-day coordination of the project. partners will be expected to answer promptly and to provide all the documents required. The CB will i) ensure that deliverables are completed in time as defined in this proposal; ii) take care that the beneficiaries are aware of their responsibilities and reporting duties; iii) monitor the timely completion of all tasks, providing any necessary support. The CB will stipulate a partnership agreement with all partners where tasks and duties will be set for the execution of the project and beneficiaries will provide the activities and financial reports to the CB during the project and participate in the coordinating meeting. As other partners will sign the agreement, they will be responsible for the implementation of their activities. The CB will be deputated to i) management of Steering Committee; ii) procedures of reimbursement and book-keeping for the EC; iii) technical/administrative monitoring of the activities through requests to fill in accounting tables used to formulate Progress Reports for the project to send to the EC.

**Steering Committee (SC).** The SC will be composed of 1 representative for each partner and will take care of monitoring the project both technically and financially, prepare the reports for the EC, solve technical and management problems and make any changes to the project and ask the EC for exemptions or modifications. CNR as CB will coordinate the meetings and will be responsible for setting the agenda. The beneficiaries will participate in the meetings and give all the contributions required. The partner responsible for the organization will be the one who will host the meeting. SC meetings will be at least 8 and will be organized about every 6 months, including the kick-off meeting, but it will be possible to organize more meetings for further necessities expressed by the CB or other partners. Every SC meeting will be split up in a section for financial and administrative aspects and a section regarding technical issues. according to the phase of the project.

**External Advisory Board (EAB).** The EAB is a consultative authority that could provide support for specific parts of the project to get an external view point of experts and to qualify LIFE DREAM Project contents. Since the high variety of themes treated in the project, the EAB is thought to have a structure with a modifiable composition. The EAB members will be nominated by M6 by the SC.

**Project Management Staff (PMS).** The PMS is a team at CNR including a technical project manager, an administrative officer and a financial manager, and having a strong experience in EU project management and coordination. The PMS will facilitate communication and integration among the beneficiaries and take over all the financial management issues. The PM and PMS will also make sure that all contractual obligations are fulfilled by associated beneficiaries.

**Project manager (PM).** The CNR will hire a new resource that will work specifically as LIFE DREAM Project Manager full time, completely dedicated to the project under the CNR direct control as CB. The PM will make sure that the financial accounting and its timing will comply with the requirements established by the EC. The PM coordinates the financial accounting and financial reporting activities of all the partners. The PM will be part of the internal CNR staff, more specifically the PM will be part of the PMS.

**Technical Manager (TM).** Administrative Officer (AO), Financial Manager (FM). All the partners will identify the personnel responsible for financial management and technical and communication issues within their own structures. They will be in contact with the PM and will comply with his requests in due time. Each partner will have to: i) individualize an administrative and technical representative to take part of the Steering Committee; and ii) provide the CB with the information needed for technical and financial reporting, in particular financial information regarding the progress of the expenditures will be required every 3 months.

#### Project monitoring

**Meetings.** The Coordinator will plan the meetings among the beneficiaries to ensure that the LIFE DREAM Project is implemented according to the project proposal (scope of the tasks, timetable, expected results, etc.). WP1 will include the project kick-off meeting, progress meetings, and the project technical and administrative reporting, including payment requests.

The first beneficiaries meeting (kick-off meeting) will be organized at the beginning of the project at the CNR to define a detailed operative work-plan, setting objectives, methods, strategies, planned actions, deliverables and risks of the project with all partners. This meeting will introduce the consortium with the LIFE Nature rules for managing project implementation. The kick-off meeting will represent the formal start of the activities. It will establish the first steps to coordinate the partners and main subcontractors in the realization of the first technical and administrative activities. The kick-off meeting agenda will include:

- Presentation of the contract with the Commission and obligations for the beneficiaries;
- Administrative and reporting procedures;
- Start up of the first technical activities of the project;
- Time schedule of the progress meetings.

In order to guarantee full coordination of activities, progress meetings involving all beneficiaries technical managers will take place every six months, in particular one meeting will be participated and the other one will be through Skype call or similar systems. We foresee that two representatives (1 technical responsible and 1 administrative responsible) will attend each meeting. In case specific issues will need discussion, a specific progress meeting will be held.

**Reports.** The LIFE DREAM Project foreseen a continuous and e periodic reporting by means of the modules in the Portal Grant Management System. We will produce progress reports planned as follow:

- **Pre-financial report** with the second request of reimbursement after 18 months from start date;
- **Progress report** after 30 months from start date;
- **Final report** with the final request of reimbursement within 3 months project end and with final statement of expenditure. The final report will include the **After-LIFE Conservation plan** in a specific chapter. The After-LIFE plan shall set out how the actions initiated in the LIFE project will be continued and developed in the years that follow the end of the project, how the longer term management of the site(s)/habitats/species will be assured, and how replication elsewhere will be fostered. The After-LIFE plan shall in addition set out how the dissemination and communication of the results will continue after the end of the project. It should give details regarding what actions will be carried out, when, by whom, with which sources of finance.

### 4.3 Green management

#### Green management

The consortium of LIFE DREAM Project will follow criteria favouring the use of products and services with a reduced effect on human health and the environment, compatible with the project requirements, in line with the EU Green Public Procurement (GPP) Policy.

Project activities will involve highly qualified technical personnel operating following eco-friendly principles.

Supply contracts for the cost in the "Equipment", "Infrastructure" and "Consumables" will target products and services ensuring reduced environmental impacts of the materials considering their life-cycle costing (LCC). Selection criteria will favour companies that guarantee, in addition to a competitive offer considering economic and technical aspects, the compliance of the following credentials:

- using renewed or renewable materials;
- providing products with certifications attesting to the environmental sustainability requirements.

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Partners will use the Environmental Product Declaration Schemes (EPDs) as a discrimination tool, which integrate information on the life-cycle costing (LCC) of products such as the quantity of energy and/or water consumed for product generation, packaging, and transport. This will also concern the purchase of scientific equipment;

- using packaging systems with reduced environmental impact. Companies guaranteeing the use of products that include eco-compatible packaging or reduced use of polluting materials will be given greater consideration. As an example, completely biodegradable jute bags will be used for the storage of the ML recovered through LIFE DREAM activities.

#### 4.4 Budget

##### Estimated budget — Resources

See detailed budget table (annex 1 to Part B).

### 5. OTHER

#### 5.1 Ethics

##### Ethics

Not applicable

#### 5.2 Security

##### Security

Not applicable

### 6. DECLARATIONS

Higher funding rate	YES/NO
Do you fulfil the conditions set out in the Call document for a higher funding rate (75% or 67%)? If YES, explain and provide details.	NO
n/a	

Double funding	
Information concerning other EU grants for this project	YES/NO

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We confirm that to our best knowledge neither the project as a whole nor any parts of it have benefitted from any other EU grant (including EU funding managed by authorities in EU Member States or other funding bodies, e.g. Erasmus, EU Regional Funds, EU Agricultural Funds, European Investment Bank, etc.). If NO, explain and provide details.	YES
We confirm that to our best knowledge neither the project as a whole nor any parts of it are (nor will be) submitted for any other EU grant (including EU funding managed by authorities in EU Member States or other funding bodies, e.g. Erasmus, EU Regional Funds, EU Agricultural Funds, European Investment Bank, etc.). If NO, explain and provide details.	YES

#### Financial support to third parties (if applicable)

In the LIFE DREAM Project, the maximum amount per third party does not exceed the threshold amount set in the Call.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	15.04.2021	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	14.06.2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addition of a short paragraph in section 3.2 explaining how LIFE DREAM project intends to face the fishery impact on the target sites We specified within this section also number of fishers involved in the awareness events, the duration and the ports where the events will be organized.</li> <li>• Inclusion of this information also in WP2 Task 2.3.</li> <li>• Addition of further information on how involvement of fishers will be ensured in T5.2</li> <li>• Addition of the task “T5.4 Management plans and regulated areas” in order to foster the adoption of a regulation to avoid fishery in the targeted sites specifying them as requested</li> <li>• Addition of the deliverable “D5.1 Management plans for N2K sites” aiming at drafting a management plan for the N2K sites to reduce fishery impact.</li> <li>• Addition of the Task “T.7.6 Adoption of project results and solutions” in order to formalize the adoption of project results through 3 activities: a) designations of N2K sites, b) adoption of LDTP c) signing of MoU for the adoption of the management plans drafted for the N2K sites.</li> <li>• Addition of 3 Milestones: MS15 Designation and/or enlargement of N2Ksites in Italy; MS18 Reporting on actions for LDTP adoption in each country; MS19 Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the adoption of the management plan</li> </ul>

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## **ANNEXES**

### **LIST OF ANNEXES**

- Participant information
- Maps
- Description of the species and habitats
- Description of sites
- Letters of supports

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## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

<b>Participant 1</b>	
<b>Legal name (short name):</b>	National Research Council (CNR)
<b>Description of participant</b>	
<p>The National Research Council (CNR) of Italy is the largest public research institution in Italy, the only one under the Research Ministry performing multidisciplinary activities. Founded as legal person on 18 November 1923, CNR's mission is to perform research in its own Institutes, to promote innovation and competitiveness of the national industrial system, to promote the internationalization of the national research system, to provide technologies and solutions to emerging public and private needs, to advise Government and other public bodies, and to contribute to the qualification of human resources.</p> <p>Within CNR, the Institute of Marine Sciences (ISMAR) is distributed in 6 regions of Italy (Veneto, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Emilia Romagna, Liguria, Lazio, Campania) involving more than 200 people in research activities. CNR-ISMAR has a long and documented experience on the seafloor mapping and Mediterranean deep-sea ecosystems with special focus on the highly-emblematic Cold Water Coral and Chemosynthetic habitats and on very shallow water coastal and transitional environments, like lagoons and deltas. In particular, CNR-ISMAR focused on recognition and geomorphological mapping of the seafloor, assessment of megafauna benthic biodiversity following a multidisciplinary approach including oceanographical variables. Furthermore, CNR-ISMAR has experience in deep-sea and extremely shallow water ground-truth techniques, marine cartography, habitat mapping and GIS. CNR ISMAR has been involved in several seafloor benthic habitat mapping and geology EU projects (e.g. EUROCORE, EUROSTRATAFORM, PROMESS1, HERMES, HERMIONE, IDEM), and coordinated MALESTROM, EURODELTA, NEAREST, EMMA, SARDONE, ENVEUROPE and CoCoNet. CNR ISMAR has gained specific experience about marine litter by leading and participating in several projects concerning marine litter impact (Life-GHOST, H2020-CLAIM, JPI-OCEANSEPHEMARE) mapping and recycling (EASME/EMFF co-funded marGnet), ecosystem protection and maritime spatial planning (ADRIPLAN, Interreg-CO-EVOLVE, Interreg-AMare, H2020-MUSES, Life+ TARTALIFE, DGMare co-funded SUPREME). CNR-ISMAR participated in the initial assessment and establishment of targets and criteria for the MSFD Descriptor 1 (Biodiversity), 6 (sea-floor Integrity) and 10 (Marine Litter), for the assessment of Italian areas in the deep sea. CNR is actually participating in the monitoring programmes leading most of the relevant cruises in the Adriatic, Ionian, Tyrrhenian Seas and the Strait of Sicily and supports the national Environmental Protection Agencies for the coastal areas monitoring.</p>	
<b>Key staff</b>	
<p><b>Federica Foglini, Female, Senior technologist, Project coordinator</b></p> <p>Laurea (equivalent of MSc) in Geology (2001), University of Bologna, MSc in GIS and Remote Sensing at Greenwich University, London. (2004). Technologist at ISMAR since 2005. Her main research topics are seafloor mapping and geomorphology, marine cartography, habitat mapping technologies, multi beam swath bathymetry acquisition and processing, marine spatial data management, Geodatabase design and implementation. She participated in more than 20 oceanographic cruises as supervisor of geophysical data acquisition and processing and as chief scientist. She is co-author of several international scientific papers and she wrote several technical reports about implementation and design of Marine Geodatabase and GIS mapping and multi beam bathymetry processing. She is supervisor of undergraduate, MSc and PhD theses and she is teaching GIS for Habitat mapping at Bologna University. She is a member of the GEBCO (<a href="https://www.gebco.net/">https://www.gebco.net/</a>). She lead several International and national projects coordinating server partners. She was WP leader of the CoCoNet project for data management from 2012 to 2016. WP leader for the H2020 REALICENCE project, Task leader for the Sea Monitoring case study in the EVER-EST project (European Virtual Environment for Research – Earth Science Themes). She coordinated the habitat mapping units in the framework of RITMARE project, a national flagship program funded by the Italian Ministry of Research and Education. She is coordinating the habitat mapping group in the Framework of the Marine Strategy Directive for ISMAR. She participated to several European projects as Database Manager (for the implementation of GIS and WebGIS system) and as expert in bathymetric data and habitat mapping (EMODNET, BIOMAP, MAGIC, HERMIONE, HERMES, Geological mapping of the Italian</p>	

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Sea).

**Valentina Grande, Female, Technologist, GIS expert and data manager**

Laurea (equivalent of MSc) in Environmental Sciences (2011) University of Salento (Italy). She has worked at CNR-ISMAR since 2013. Her main research topics are the implementation of spatial data infrastructures (SDIs) for managing multidisciplinary marine data and metadata (e.g. CoCoNet project at Mediterranean scale and AMAre project at fine scale), and the benthic habitat mapping. She is interested in managing the entire life cycle of research in Earth Sciences, from ideas to procedures, products and publications in a FAIR perspective, expertise developed in the framework of the EVER-EST and RELIANCE projects. She is now involved in national projects for the implementation of SDIs aiming to collect and make available spatial information that will be used for maritime spatial planning and management plans (such as MarE and FEAMP Campania). Her activities in ISMAR are also related to benthic habitat mapping in GIS environment oriented to conservation, monitoring and cartography. She worked in shallow (Venice lagoon channels) and deep environments (two canyons in the South Adriatic Sea) and she investigated the deep Italian water from – 100 m depth in the framework of the MSFD. She participated in 15 oceanographic cruises from 2013 to 2019 as responsible for the data management and as supervisor of geophysical data acquisition. She is co-author of international scientific papers and reports on benthic habitat mapping in GIS environment and multi beam data processing. She is tutor of a GIS course for spatial planning and monitoring of the marine environment of the Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna (Italy), and supervisor of MSc theses.

**Lorenzo Angeletti, Male, Researcher, Marine geo-biologist**

Laurea (MSc equivalent) in Earth Sciences (2004) (Sedimentology and Palaeontology) at the University of Bologna and PhD in Palaeontology and Palaeoecology (2009) at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. Research topics are: Bio-sedimentology, with emphasis on deep-sea coral ecosystems and extreme environments; Habitat Mapping of deep and intermediate-depth ecosystems; biodiversity, forcers, and functioning of deep-sea ecosystems. Paleobiology and paleoecology of Quaternary marine environments with a focus on paleoenvironmental reconstructions in stratigraphic-sequential context. Experience in marine geological research in the Mediterranean and Late Quaternary deposits of the Red Sea. He participated in several National and EU projects: Prin Glide (2020); Italian Flagship Project RITMARE (2012-2016); Prin Carbonate Conduits (2011-2013); PON-FESR, BIOMAP (2012-2016); PNRA GRACEFUL (2013-2016); Fibr-APLABES (2005-2011); CNR/CONACYT (2017-2018); EU-IDEM (2016-2018); EU-COCONET (2013-2016); EU-HERMIONE (2009-2012); EU-HERMES (2005-2009). Project responsibility: 2017-Present Member of Working Group on the Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (WGVME) at General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). 2015-2017 Responsible of Work Packages in the "Convenzione MATTM-CNR per i programmi di Monitoraggio per la Direttiva sulla Strategia Marina (MSFD, Art. 11 Dir, 2008/56/CE): WP2.1 Habitat a Coralli Bianchi (Cold-Water Corals Habitat); WP2.2 Habitat a Coralligeno (Coralligenous Habitat); WP2.4 Estensione dei fondi a Maerl/Rodoliti (Maerl and Rhodoliths Habitat); WP2.5 Monitoraggio dell'estensione delle biocenosi di fondo mobile sottoposte a danno fisico (Monitoring of the extension of mobile bottom communities under physical damage), Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca MUR - BANDO 2020. 2013-2016 Task Leader: Mapping of shallow and deep benthic habitats and assemblages (EU-FPVII COCONET). He was responsible for the Deep-Sea Italian Marine Strategy Framework Directive program by leading the preparation of monitoring programs (cold-water corals and trawling impact on sea-bottom communities) and by leading at-sea activities. Sea-going experience: participation in 35 multidisciplinary oceanographic cruises (from the 2003 up to now), mainly in the Mediterranean Sea. Chief-Scientist in 10 multidisciplinary oceanographic cruises. Author of >45 scientific peer-reviewed papers and book chapters. Bibliometric indicators (24/11/2021) H-Index= 23 (Google Scholar); 17 (WoS); 18 (Scopus) N. Cit.= 1429 (GoogleScholar); 779 (WoS); 886 (Scopus).

**Fantina Madricardo, Female, Researcher, Geophysicist**

Laurea (equivalent of MSc) in Physics (1999) University of Padova, PhD in Physics (2002), University of Hamburg, Germany, Post-Doc position (2008) at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France. She has been a staff member researcher at CNR-ISMAR since 2012. Her main research topics are applied geophysics and underwater acoustics, focussing on seafloor mapping and geomorphology. She is interested in development of methods for semi-automatic classification of multibeam echosounder data for seabed sediment characterization, benthic habitat mapping, and geomorphometric analysis of seafloor morphologies and anthropogenic physical change. Within the national research project RITMARE, she coordinated an extensive multibeam survey in the very shallow waters of the Venice Lagoon obtaining extremely high resolution seafloor data. She coordinated the marGNET project and she is coordinating the H2020 MAELSTROM project. She participated in the Life project GHOST (Techniques to reduce the impact of ghost fishing gears and to improve biodiversity in North Adriatic Coastal Areas) and she is currently involved in RELIANCE. She is co-author of several international scientific papers and reports on marine geomorphology, shallow water benthic habitat mapping and multi beam bathymetry processing. She is supervisor of undergraduate, MSc and PhD theses in collaboration with the University of Ca' Foscari Venice, Italy and the University of Gdansk, Poland.

**Ilaria Conese, Female, Technologist, Marine Biologist**

Laurea (equivalent of MSc) in Marine Biology (2010) at University of Pisa, PhD in Earth System Sciences: Environment, Resources and Cultural Heritage (2016) at University of Modena and Reggio Emilia with title "Impacts of dense shelf water cascading in the southern Adriatic Sea: an integrated approach to evaluate small-scale variability on the benthic compartment". She has worked at CNR-ISMAR since 2012 and she has been a staff member technologist since 2020. Her research topic is focused on ecosystem functioning, especially on trophic aspects of deep-sea communities. She is also interested in benthic habitat mapping oriented to taxonomy, conservation and monitoring. She worked in deep environments in the South Adriatic Sea and she participated in several oceanographic cruises as responsible for sediment traps and moorings. She trained undergraduate students for laboratory activities. She is author and co-author of international scientific papers and she participated in national and international meetings with posters and presentations.

**Alessandro Remia, Male, Technologist, Marine Geologist**

Graduated in Geological Sciences at the University of Bologna with a thesis on Cool-Water biogenic factories, his initial research focused upon submerged Pleistocene-age Mediterranean deep-water corals. After the degree thesis started with a research grant and since 2003 he is a technologist at the Institute of Marine Sciences (CNR-ISMAR) in Bologna. He has considerable oceanographic experience encompassing logistics, seabed sampling and geophysical data acquisition and processing. He participated in more than 40 missions in the Mediterranean Sea, Northeast Atlantic and Antarctica onboard Italian and German research vessels as well as smaller boats often as Chief Scientist, responsible and supervisor. His interests are in bio-sedimentology, geomorphology, Quaternary geology and recognition of submarine sand deposits useful for the beach nourishment of erosion coast working on planning, acquisition and processing of navigation data, geophysical data as CHIRP seismo-acoustic profiles and multibeam and geognostic data. He has good knowledge of GIS and he collaborated for the creation of architecture and population of some relational databases used for the management of the underwater sand resource by some Italian regions.

**Giacomo Dalla Valle, Male, Researcher, Marine Geologist**

Degree in Geology at the University of Bologna (2003); PhD in Earth Sciences (Marine Geology and Sedimentology) (2007) at the University of Bologna. Research interests: modern clastic sedimentary systems through geophysical surveying techniques: 2D/3D seismic, multibeam, side-scan sonar, and sedimentary core analysis. He participated in many cruises onboard research vessels in the Adriatic, Tyrrhenian, and the Aegean Sea. Supervisor for the acquisition of Multi-Beam and seismic data in the frame of MAGIC (Marine Geohazards along the Italian Coasts) project. Participation in the EU-COCONET and MSFD projects as responsible for geophysical data acquisition, processing, and interpretation. Participation in "Language of Research" (LdR) project, which promotes close collaboration between the scholastic and scientific world. It aims to arouse interest in the world of research by involving students in scientific dissemination. The project is developed through laboratory exercises and visits to research laboratories with the involvement of students in the dissemination of the contents learned through the production of educational materials.

**Alessandra Mercorella, Female, Technician, MB expert**

Graduated in Marine Environmental Science, from 2009 is technician for CNR-ISMAR (Bologna). Her experience in geophysical data acquisition and processing starts at university, and grows over the years through the skills acquired in different occupations. She worked for public and private institutions, both on land and sea, and took part in more than 40 oceanographic surveys, in the Mediterranean Sea as well as in the Atlantic Ocean. Her expertise ranges from geophysics, including equipment installation and maintenance, to data processing and analysis, focusing on the correlations between different data types (geological, biological, geophysical); this is primarily achieved using specific GIS software (Geographic Information System). At present she works as an expert in: multibeam and seismic data acquisition and processing, cartographic output, database implementation and population, and qualitative and quantitative data analysis.

**Marco Taviani, Male, Associate researcher, Senior marine geo-biologist.**

Degree (Laurea) in Geology (1976), University of Bologna, PhD (Dottorato) in Paleontology (1987), Rome. His main research interests include deep-water coral ecosystems; bio-sedimentology of biogenic carbonate factories; extreme environments (polar, cold seeps); paleoclimatology and paleoceanography (Antarctica, Mediterranean, Red Sea, Western Indian Ocean), Cenozoic-Recent marine paleontology and paleoecology; benthic taxonomy (molluscs, corals); marine protected areas. He participated in various international (EU, NSF) and national projects (PRIN, PNRA, etc.) as national coordinator, WP leader or task leader. Has organized or participated in over 50 oceanographic offshore missions in the Mediterranean, Red Sea, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean and Antarctica) often as chief-scientist, on major (over 40) and minor vessels, including submersible dives. He participated in many scientific SCUBA dive projects. He published > 450 papers, including peer-reviewed articles (ca 300), book chapters, proceedings and science popular contributions. He served as Professor in Italian and US universities and

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has been a supervisor or examiner of undergraduate and graduate students at various Universities in Europe. He served as reviewer for many international peer-reviewed journals and proposals. He is very active in scientific outreach

#### Projects or Activities

EASME/EMFF project MarGnet – Mapping and recycling Ghost nets and marine litter on the seafloor. The 'marGnet' project focuses on marine litter on the sea floor and especially on marine litter generated by the fisheries and aquaculture activities, including not only abandoned, accidentally lost and otherwise discarded fishing gears (ALDFG). The project sets up and tests multi-level solutions oriented to, on one hand, monitor and map and, on the other hand, prevent as well as remove and recycle ML from sea-based sources. It provides for: 1) fast methodology (based on large scale acoustic remote sensing) for wide scale mapping and monitoring of diffusion of marine litter on the seafloor; 2) a prototype that exploits low temperature pyrolysis method to transform the marine litter in an energy source with reasonable costs; policy makers and institutions decision supporting tools and best experience to orient the policy making process

The project LIFE-GHOST - promoted concrete measures to preserve and improve the ecological status of the rocky habitats (Tegnùe) in the north Adriatic sea. The impacts of abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gears (ALDFG) on marine biodiversity were evaluated and the removed gears/nets processed to identify appropriate procedures for recycling/reuse. The economic value of the ecosystem benefits resulting from ALDFG removal/reduction were also considered. A regulation addressing various issues associated with sustainable management of ADFG was proposed as a reference tool for local managing authorities in order to mitigate/prevent environmental and economic damages highlighted by the project.

EU 7FP CoCoNET (Towards Coast to Coast NETworks of marine protected areas, from the shore to the high and deep sea, coupled with sea-based wind energy potential). The main objective of this project was the collation, analysis and integration of current information to design MPAs networks by adopting a holistic approach, coupling environmental protection and clean energy production as an important challenge for the Mediterranean and Black Seas, providing an opportunity for exploring new ecological cost-benefit methods such as those proposed by The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study. Marine conservation must embrace the ecosystem approach and must regard the high and the deep sea too.

Interreg MED AMARe plus - Actions for Marine Protected Area. The project aims at improving protection measures in order to maintain the biodiversity of natural coastal and marine ecosystems, thanks to better cooperation and networking between Mediterranean Protected Areas in monitoring and managing the marine litter issue.

MAELSTROM – MARinE Litter SusTainable RemOval and Management is a European Union funded project designed to develop and test sustainable technological solutions for the removal and treatment of litter within river ecosystems, intercepting litter before it enters the sea. Our action starts from modelling litter trajectories to identify its accumulation hotspots. We then proceed with an environmental assessment to understand how litter is impacting the surrounding ecosystem. The second step is to implement one of the two MAELSTROM's removal technologies – the Bubble Barrier and the underwater cable robot – for litter removal, either from the riverbed or the water column, depending on the river settings. In this way we can intercept litter before it reaches the sea. A second environmental assessment is then made to assess the impacts of the removal operation in the coastal ecosystem.

#### affiliated Entities / Associated Partners

n/a

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Participant 2	
Legal name (short name):	University of Bari Aldo Moro (UNIBA)
Description of participant	
<p>The team of the Department of Biology of University of Bari Aldo Moro (UNIBA) has a consolidated experience in studies on taxonomy and biodiversity of benthic sessile and benthopelagic mobile fauna, life strategies and population dynamics of coastal and deep-water species, community ecology from the continental shelf to the slope, animal forests, oyster reefs and coral habitats. UNIBA is recognized as the Reference Department of MIPAAFT in the assessment and management of demersal resources in the Ionian Sea. The research team is also referent for the assessment of the shellfish resources along the Apulian coasts, as part of the National Management Plan to the sustainable use of the clam resources. UNIBA is a component of the Advisory Commission for fishery and aquaculture of Apulia Region. Moreover, UNIBA is part of relevant International commissions (IUCN, GFCM), providing scientific advice about fishery resources, Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) and Essential Fish Habitats (EFH) in the Mediterranean Sea. Recently, the research team led the BIOMAP project, targeting the mapping and the characterization of marine bioconstructions along the Apulian coasts. The scientific experience in the study of marine bioconstructions and deep-sea habitats and species has been constantly strengthened since the discovery (2001) of the cold-water coral (CWC) province of Santa Maria di Leuca (Apulia Region). Since then, many other CWC sites have been discovered and studied, including the unique and vulnerable coral habitats in the mesophotic zone off Monopoli and black coral forests at Isole Tremiti Marine Protected Area, stressing the role of these ecosystems in the management of fishing resources as well as their importance for the local economy. UNIBA is often present in research and development initiatives regarding the three Marine Protected Areas (MPA) of the Apulian Region, their monitoring and their sustainable use. The team is involved in the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive collaborating with CNR and ARPA Puglia on the following topics: coralligenous, rhodolith beds, Posidonia oceanica meadows, fishing impacts on benthic communities along the Apulian coasts as well as white coral habitats along the Italian coasts. UNIBA will be responsible for the task 3.2 "Mapping activities".</p>	
Key staff	
<p><b>Gianfranco D'Onghia, Male, Full professor in Ecology, Expert in marine biology and fishery</b></p> <p>Former member of "Biodiversity, Agriculture and Environment" PhD panel of the University of Bari Aldo Moro. Expert Peer-Reviewer for Italian Scientific Evaluation (REPRISE) (Ministry of University and Research). Expert in marine biology and fishery of the Advisory Commission for fishery and aquaculture of Apulia Region. Expert in national and international commissions regarding marine biological resources, sensitive and vulnerable habitats of the Mediterranean (GFCM, EU-STECCF, ESF, IUCN). His research themes regard the life strategies and population dynamics of deep-sea species; biodiversity and community ecology of deep-sea ecosystems; assessment and management of biological marine resources; deep-sea species and vulnerable marine ecosystem conservation. GD has participated in several national and international research projects for some of which he was coordinator and scientific responsible (GRUND, RED SHRIMPS, MEDITs, DEEP-FISHERIES, DISCARDS, HAKE, COCTEL, MEDLAND, DESEAS, NURSERY, INTERREG Italy-Albania, INTERREG Italy-Greece, SPICAMAR, APLABES, GAVIS, VECTOR, REDS, PRIN-OBAMA, CoralFISH, CoCoNet, RITMARE). GD is a member of the National Order of Biologist, Italian Society of Marine Biology, Italian Society of Ecology, French Society of Ichthyology. He is in MARine Research Information NETWORK on Biodiversity (MARINE-B), and Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). He is an associate member of CoNISM a (an Italian Consortium of 32 Universities that promotes research and scientific activities and their applications in the field of Marine Sciences). GD has (co)-authored more than 220 scientific publications in national and international ISI journals, conference proceedings, chapters of books and monographs. Reviewer and guest editor for national and international ISI journals.</p> <p><b>Porzia Maiorano, Female, Associate professor in Ecology, Marine community ecologist</b></p> <p>She is a member of the National Scientific Council of ISPRA (The Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research). Her research activity regards the biodiversity and marine community ecology in coastal and deep-sea ecosystems, assessment of the Mediterranean demersal</p>	

resources, population ecology and life strategies of deep-sea demersal species, impact of macrolitter on the seafloor. Participant or scientific responsible of national and international projects. Scientific responsible for the MEDITS project (EU Data Collection Framework) for the Ionian Sea from 2013 and involved in the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive for the Descriptor 10 (Marine Litter). Cooperation with Mediterranean and Atlantic researchers in a project on assessment of demersal resources, ecosystem based management in sensitive and vulnerable ecosystems, shared resources between pristine and exploited areas. Co-author of more than 130 scientific publications in national and international ISI journals, conference proceedings and chapters in volume. Reviewer for national and international ISI journals. Member of Italian Society of Marine Biology (SIBM) and Italian Society of Ecology (SITE).

**Letizia Sion, Female, Associate professor in Ecology, Expert of Mediterranean ichthyofauna**

Former member of "Biosciences and Biotechnology" of the University of Bari PhD panel. Her research regards marine biology and ecology, the population and community ecology, the assessment of marine living resources. Expert of Mediterranean ichthyofauna as well as on deep-water biological resources with main interest in the life cycles of the Chondrichthyes and the aspects related to their conservation. Her research activity is also focused on age reading/validation in fish (otoliths, spines, vertebrae etc.), statistical analysis and fish tagging. Participant or scientific responsible of national and international projects, she works on EU DCF data collection and in the context of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. (co)-author of more than 120 publications in national and international ISI journals, conference proceedings and chapters in volume. Reviewer for Italian and international ISI journals. Member of Italian Society of Ecology and Italian Society of Marine Biology and of the Group of Italian Research on sharks, rays and chimaera (GRIS) S.I.B.M.

**Roberto Carlucci, Male, Associate professor in Ecology, Expert of Mediterranean ichthyofauna**

He belongs to the Ph.D. School in Biodiversity, Agriculture, Environment of the University of Bari Aldo Moro. His main research interests have been focused on the application of biological, statistical, and mathematical models to marine ecology, population dynamics and fishery stock assessment. He worked on EU DCF data collection, marine bio-invasions of alien species in the Mediterranean Sea and implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive with application of EAF principles to fisheries management. He long attended the Working Group on Fishery Stock Assessment of Demersal Species in the framework of the FAO General Fishery Commission for the Mediterranean for the Geographical Sub Area GSA19 (Western Ionian Sea). RC is also proactively focused on the assessment of dolphins and whales in the Central eastern Mediterranean Sea, leading a research group focused on aspects of cetacean's bio-ecology, their migration patterns, critical habitats, and the marine spatial planning including conservation objectives. He is a member of the CIESM Task Force on Sharks and Rays. RC has (co)-authored more than 130 scientific publications in congress proceedings, national and international ISI journals. Reviewer and editor for Italian and international ISI journals.

**Francesco Mastrototaro, Male, Associate professor in Zoology, Expert in deep-sea benthic communities**

Member of the Ph.D council in "Biodiversity, Agriculture and Environment at University of Bari Aldo Moro. His main research interests have been focused on: taxonomy, biology and ecology of Mediterranean tunicates, benthic communities, non-indigenous species, habitat mapping, taxonomy and ecology of molluscs, anthozoa and echinoderms, macro-fauna associated with sea grass of Posidonia oceanica. He spent research and study periods at national and international universities and research centers where he deepened the techniques related to taxonomy of ascidians and cnidarians and studied the main Mediterranean underwater communities both superficial and deep. He is co-author of 140 scientific publications in national and international journals among them a monograph of the European Ascidian and chapters of books. He is editor of an international taxonomic journal and reviewer for many international ISI journals.

**Caterina Longo, Female, Associate professor in Zoology, Taxonomist**

PhD in Environmental Science, currently Associate Professor in Zoology at the Department of Biology of the University of Bari Aldo Moro. She is author of many scientific publications in national and international journals, book chapters and speakers at numerous conferences. She spent research and study periods at national and international universities where she deepened the techniques related to taxonomy of porifera. She is a specialist in taxonomy, ecology and biogeography of porifera. She is an expert in rearing and restoring techniques of marine sponges in the natural environment and in bioremediation methodologies in marine environment. Main research topics: taxonomy and ecology of porifera from different marine environments (marine caves, lagoons, shallow and deep sea); biodiversity and biogeography of Italian and Mediterranean porifera; macrobenthic marine alien species; rearing, restocking and restoring of sponges of commercial and/or conservation importance; use of filter-feeder benthic invertebrates as bioremediators in marine environment; mapping and monitoring of zoobenthic species and benthic habitats of high conservation importance; Mediterranean bioconstructions.

**Francesca Capezuto, Female, Researcher in Ecology, Zoologist**

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PhD in Environmental Science, currently Researcher in Ecology at the Department of Biology of the University of Bari Aldo Moro. She has participated in more than 30 oceanographic campaigns and fishing surveys and in many national and international conferences and workshops both in Italy and abroad. She has (co)-authored more than 90 scientific publications in congress proceedings, national and international ISI journals. Member of the PhD council in "Biosciences and Biotechnology" of the University of Bari. Her research fields concern to: trophic ecology of deep-sea species; life strategies and population dynamics of deep-sea species; cold-water corals; biodiversity and community ecology of deep-sea ecosystems and their conservation; assessment and management of biological marine resources. She is an expert in ichthyofauna, teutofauna and Mediterranean carcinofauna. She is scientific coordinator of the Pilot Study "Fishing level and impact of fishing activities on marine biological resources and marine ecosystems: trophic chains, stomach contents" Sub-area Geographic (GSA) 19 - Northwest Ionian Sea TASK 5.3.

**Francesco Curci, Male, Technician, Logistic and technical organization**

Competence in the use and management of apple macos x and windows operating systems; windows/apple applications: office (word, excel, power point, outlook); computer graphics, cad and video. Competence in the use of computer graphics and the main applications for photo editing and digital photography (adobe photoshop and illustrator, lightroom); good knowledge and use of 2d/3d cad applications (autocad, archicad). Knowledge and use of video editing techniques (apple final cut pro, premiere, idvd and dvd studio pro). Competence in the geographic information systems and databases, use and design of db (filemaker), gis applications (esri arcview, arcgis, spatial analyst) and management of cartographic databases.

**Lucio Rositani, Male, Technician, Logistic and technical organization**

Technician diver. From 1980 he began to collaborate with the Marine Biology Laboratory of the Province of Bari and with other scientific institutions. During this forty-year experience he has dealt with protected flora e fauna, underwater and oceanographic samples, cartography, species identification, surveys on the assessment of marine resources relating to various types of fishing, management of public aquaria, studies on the environment with particular regard to Posidonia meadows and coralligenous as well as to cave environment, carried out in scuba diving.

**Projects or Activities**

MEDITS (International Bottom Trawl Survey in the Mediterranean) in Italian Work Plan for data collection in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, EU Data Collection Framework (DCF), EU Regulation 2017/1004.

LIFE18 NAT/IT/000920: LIFE DIOMEDEE - Protection of seabirds and habitats in Tremiti (Diomedee) Islands and other Apulian SCI's through actions against IAS. Name of the coordinating beneficiary: Ente Parco Nazionale del Gargano. Coordinating beneficiary: Ente Parco Nazionale del Gargano; Associated beneficiaries: Nature and Environment Management Operators NEMO Ltd; Parco Naturale Regionale Dune Costiere da Torre Canne a Torre San Leonardo; Patto Consulting Impresa Sociale; Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro, Dipartimento di Biologia. Total project budget: 1,402,228 Euro; Total eligible project budget: 1,402,228 Euro; EU financial contribution requested: 841,336 Euro. Duration: 2019-2024.

LIFE16 ENV/IT/000343: REMEDIA Life - REmediation of Marine Environment and Development of Innovative Aquaculture: exploitation of edible/not edible biomass. Coordinating beneficiary: Università del Salento - Associated beneficiaries: Istituto per l'Ambiente Marino Costiero CNR U.O.S. Taranto (IRSA CNR Taranto); Maricoltura Mar Grande S.r.l.; Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro, Dipartimento di Biologia. Total project budget: 2,476,304 Euro; Total eligible project budget: 2,453,354 Euro; EU financial contribution requested: 1,344,137 Euro. Duration: 2017-2023.

EU 7FP CoCoNET (Towards Coast to Coast NETWORKS of marine protected areas, from the shore to the high and deep sea, coupled with sea-based wind energy potential). The main objective of this project was the collation, analysis and integration of current information to design MPAs networks by adopting a holistic approach, coupling environmental protection and clean energy production as an important challenge for the Mediterranean and Black Seas, providing an opportunity for exploring new ecological cost-benefit methods such as those proposed by The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study. Marine conservation must embrace the ecosystem approach and must regard the high and the deep sea too. Period: from 2012 to 2016 (Grant agreement: 287844).

EU 7FP CoralFISH (Assessment of the interaction between corals, fish and fisheries in order to develop monitoring and predictive modelling tools for ecosystem based management in the deep waters of Europe and beyond). CoralFISH aimed to support the implementation of an ecosystem-based management approach in the deep-sea by studying the interaction between cold-water coral habitat, fish and fisheries. CoralFISH has been a unique collaboration between margin scientists, fisheries biologists and fishermen from several countries. Period: from 2008 to 2013 (Grant agreement: 213144).

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#### affiliated Entities / Associated Partners

The Mapping of human activities, with special focus on the analysis of fishing activities and maritime traffic through VMS and AIS (Automatic Identification System) data will be carried out in collaboration with the Laboratory of Experimental Ecology and Aquaculture – Department of Biology – University of Rome Tor Vergata (UNIRO) as **associated partner**. The researchers of the UNIRO have more than 15 years of experience in the analysis of data from different tracking devices (including Vessel Monitoring System – VMS, and Automatic Information System – AIS) and in the development of innovative and open access tools for the reconstruction of fishing footprint (e.g. the R packages VMSbase and smartR) and sharing of results with stakeholders, researchers and managers (e.g. the Shiny app developed for the H2020 project MINOUW - <https://minouw.shinyapps.io/minouwApp/>). In addition, UNIRO contributes to the development of models to estimate the activity of fleets without tracking devices. The UNIRO team is involved in several national and international projects dealing with mapping of fishing pressures and other anthropogenic activities, including: the DG-MARE Project MANTIS (), the H2020 Project MINOW, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive DG-ENV Project ABIOMMED and the activities for the Data Collection Framework in the Fisheries Sector.

#### Participant 3

Legal name (short name):

Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR)

#### Description of participant

The Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) is a governmental research organization operating under the supervision of the General Secretariat for Research and Innovation (GSRI) of the Greek Ministry of Development and Investments. The HCMR is the largest marine research organization in Greece and is composed of three research Institutes (the Institute of Oceanography, the Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology and Aquaculture, and the Institute of Marine Biological Resources and Inland Waters). The staff totals approximately 500 people comprising researchers, technicians, administrative and secretarial employees. The HCMR has been involved in all EU framework programmes and participated in numerous EU-funded RTD projects, either as coordinator or partner (e.g. CINCS, MTP-II MATER (Coordinator for East Med), METROMED (Coordinator), KEYCOP, INTERPOL (Coordinator), FATE, ADIOS, BEEP, IASON (Coordinator), MERSEA-IP, HERMES Coordinator for East Med), SESAME-IP (Coordinator), HERMIONE, EUROCEANS, ECOOP, CIRCE, SPICOSA, MESMA, MARIFISH, PEGASO, MyOcean, COCONET, PERSEUS (Coordinator), MedSEA, IRIS\_SES (Coordinator), MERMAID (Coordinator), MEDSEA checkpoint, EMODNET, BADMINTON (Coordinator), PROTOMEDEA (Coordinator), MARISCA, MINOUW, AMAre, CoralFish, DeFishGear, Plastic Busters, etc.). The missions of the HCMR are (a) to study and conserve the health of the hydrosphere, (b) to promote sustainable exploitation of the oceans including marine energy under the Blue Growth strategy, (c) to support the regional development, (d) to protect and explore marine biodiversity, (e) to promote sustainable aquaculture (f) to raise public awareness on issues related to the hydrosphere and its conservation, (g) to provide advice to regional, national, Mediterranean and EU institutional bodies on environmental sustainability and management. The team of HCMR researchers that will take part in the LIFE-DREAM proposal has a vast experience on a number of key points crucial for the successful elaboration of the proposed activities including the development and application of state-of-the-art tools for ecological monitoring and assessment, geospatial analysis and modeling, quantification of cumulative impacts of human pressures in the ecosystem, ecosystem based MSP, participatory planning. HCMR will be responsible for the WP7 “Sustainability, replicability and exploitation of project results” and the tasks 7.4 “Pilot action in the south part of the Mediterranean Sea” and 7.5 “Up-scale the project results and solutions”.

#### Key staff

**Aikaterini Anastasopoulou, Female, Principal researcher, Fisheries biologist and litter expert**

Dr. Aikaterini Anastasopoulou (PhD in Fish Biology) is a main researcher at the Institute of Marine Biological Resources and Inland Waters of the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR). She is expert on fish biology and fisheries, focusing especially on reproductive biology (histological study of reproduction, oocyte development patterns, reproductive strategies, fecundity, indicators of reproduction, maturity ogives, etc.), feeding ecology and age and growth of demersal and pelagic fish species. She has also experience on deep-fish species, Elasmobranches biology and ecology, biodiversity and Ichthyoplankton taxonomy and ecology. Marine litter (on seafloor and on biota) is another field of her scientific activities through her involvement in relevant scientific projects (e.g. DeFishGear, Plastic Busters, MSFD, DeepEastMed) and numerous publications and activities. She was the lead scientist from the HCMR team in the DeFishGear project for the fishing for litter activity, which was implemented for the first time in Greece in the NE Ionian Sea as a pilot study. She was an invited speaker in international summer schools and international/national conferences on topics related with the impact of marine litter on biota. She is currently the IMBRIW responsible for the implementation of Descriptor 10 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive concerning the occurrence of marine litter in the biota and on the seafloor. Dr. Anastasopoulou is member of the Greek National delegate for D10 of MSFD at TG on Marine Litter. She has participated in many scientific EU and National Projects such as WebGR, MUGIL, FRESH, TACADAR, DeFishGear, CoralFish, MEDISEH, Epilexis, Plesionika Manage, Plastic Busters, MSFD, DCF, DeepEastMed. She is author of peer-reviewed papers in scientific journals, chapters of books, and numerous participations in national and international Congresses and she is scientific evaluator of several peer review journals and conferences. She participates in many international meetings and workshops (eg. ICES/PGCCDBS, GFCM). Since 2019 she is Review Editor of the Journal Frontiers in Marine Science at the thematic topic "Deep-Sea Environments and Ecology". In addition, Dr. Anastasopoulou has supervised students for internships, for BSc, MSc, PhD theses and she has given lectures on Fish Reproduction to postgraduate courses (MSc) of the University of Athens.

**Vassiliki Vassilopoulou, Female, Research director, Marine biologist and MSP expert**

Vassiliki (Celia) Vassilopoulou is a fisheries biologist (PhD), Research Director at the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), involved in research activities in the field of ecosystem-approach to fisheries management. She is an expert on fishery by-catches, focusing particularly on discards mitigation, she was the coordinator of the MariFish project BADMINTON, currently being involved in the Horizon 2020 project SEAwise. Since 2009 she has been engaged in Maritime Spatial Planning research efforts through her involvement either as a WP or a case study leader in a number of research projects such as the FP7 project MESMA, the Horizon 2020 project MUSES, the DG-MARE ADRIPLAN project, the UNEP-MAP MSP Med project, the Interreg Med AMAre, the Interreg ADRION ARIEL and PORTODIMARE. Through her involvement with MSP research, she is focusing on a more efficient integration between policy needs and scientific advice, exerting efforts also towards linking the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) concepts with the UNEP/MAP Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) and ultimately MSP/ICZM inclusive implementation. She is a thematic expert of the IOC UNESCO MSP Global Initiative and a member of the UN SDSN Greece. She has also been part of the BlueMed Coordination and Support Action in the frame of which she was particularly responsible for the task of the BlueMed Young Communication Ambassadors. She has more than 150 publications and presentations in International Scientific Journals and Conferences. She has acted as chairperson or moderator, and was an invited speaker, in sessions dedicated to topics of her expertise in international conferences and workshops. Between 2006-2011 she was the HCMR responsible for the Michigan State University study abroad programme, and during the last couple of decades she has been giving lectures pertinent to her expertise to postgraduate courses of the University of Athens and Thessaloniki.

**Christopher Smith, Male, Research director, Marine biologist and benthic communities expert**

Dr. Chris Smith, Director of Research at HCMR, with over 30 years experience in marine research in Greece after finishing degrees in Scotland (B.Sc.(hons), Ph.D.). He is an expert in marine benthic ecology and habitats, fishing/ecosystem interactions, and deep-water imaging technologies. He is responsible for the HCMR ROV systems, including the 2000 m rated MaxRover, is an experienced ROV pilot and observer and is responsible for the requirements for a new 4000 m ROV. Principal investigator in recent EU Projects MERCES, AFRIMED, DEEPEASTMED, DEVOTES, BENTHIS, MEECE, CoralFISH, SuSy, Mediseh. Author of over 70 papers in ISI journals, 12 book chapters (H: 32 and over 4000 citations).

**Stefanos Kavadas, Male, Principal researcher, Mathematician, fisheries and modeling scientist**

Stefanos Kavadas, is a mathematician, senior Assistant Researcher focusing on fisheries science. Since 1992 holds a position at the Institute of the Marine Biological Resources and Inland Waters of the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (IMBRIW/HCMR). He has a wide experience on aspects related to fisheries data, management and analysis. He is responsible for the fisheries data centre, the National data bases

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under the Data Collection Framework, for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) fisheries data base and for the implementation of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean/Data Collection Reference Framework (GFCM/DCRF). His research interests focus on: design and development fisheries databases, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) analysis, classical and advanced statistical analysis, Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA), and geostatistical models. He has been also involved in studies on small scale fisheries and the development of methodologies for the analysis and modelling of effort data from different fisheries sectors. He was the president of the SC of Med & BS RDB and he is member of the GFCM Working Group for deep-water red shrimp (WGDWRS). He is the coordinator of the MARE/2020/08 - SI2.839444 grant for the development of a regional database for the Mediterranean and Black Seas. He has participated in more than 70 national and international projects and has authored/co-authored 97 scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters and conference proceedings.

**Konstantia Papadopoulou, Female, Researcher, Marine biologist**

Nadia Papadopoulou, has been working in marine research in Crete for 30 years and has participated in approximately 50 national and international research projects, her background is primarily marine ecology and latterly marine policy with new activities in social sciences and restoration. She has had positions as WP Leader, Project Board member and regional coordinator in the EU projects MERCES, AFRIMED, ODEM; task leader/researcher in ABIOMED, SeaWISE, MEDCIS, MEDREGION, DEVOTES, DeFishGear, BENTHIS, Mediseh, BADMINGTON. She has a frequent presence at ICES working groups (WGs NEP, BedPRESS, LOSS, FBIT, TRADE) and is the Greek National Delegate for D6 of the MSFD at TG Seabed and the Greek National Focal Point for Red Coral at the GFCM. Author of over 60 papers in ISI journals (H: 32 and over 3700 citations).

**Sofia Reizopoulou, Female, Research Director, Marine Biologist**

Dr. Sofia Reizopoulou (PhD in Marine Biology) is a Research Director at the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), expert on benthic ecology, indicators, Marine Protected Areas and impact assessment. Involved in several National and International projects undertaking WP responsibility, or as coordinator (TWREFERENCE, MMMPA, COCONET, MEDSEA CHECKPOINT, IRIS-SES, ACTIONMED, MEDCIS, MEDREGION, COHENET, LIFE-TRANSFER). She is in the coordination team for the WFD and MSFD implementation in Greece.

**Projects or Activities**

CoralFish (Reference no FP7-213144); title: "Assessment of the interaction between corals, fish and fisheries, in order to develop monitoring and predictive modeling tools for ecosystem based management in the deep waters of Europe and beyond".

DeFishGear (IPA Adriatic STR/00010); title: "Derelict Fishing Gear Management System in the Adriatic Region".

Actions for Marine Protected Area (AMARE); INTERREG-MED (2016-2019).

GeoPortal of Tools & Data for sustainable Management of coAstal and maRine Environment (PORTODIMARE); INTERREG / ADRION (2018-2019).

Maritime spatial planning in the Aegean for the conservation and protection of biodiversity (MARISCA); EEA Grants (2015-2016).

**affiliated Entities / Associated Partners**

n/a

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<b>Participant 4</b>	
<b>Legal name (short name):</b>	Net European Consulting (NetEC)
<b>Description of participant</b>	
<p>Net European Consulting is a consultancy firm specialising in finding sources of funding for business and project development and in marketing, dissemination and communication activities within EU funded projects. Its expertise is focused in the environmental and in the fishing sectors. NetEC has twenty years of experience in the writing, management and communication of international cooperation projects and in the strategic planning of European non-profit organisations. Acting as a medium to long term partner alongside SMEs, Universities, Public Bodies and Non-Profits, NetEC identifies the funding sources and strategic plans necessary to support the client's activities in national and international partnerships. Within the fishing sector, NetEC's objectives are: i) to support study, to carry out projects and trainings aimed to improve the development of fishery companies; ii) to carry out initiatives to protect marine environment and fight against marine pollution to promote surveys and studies in the field of research and professional training and on the communication; iii) to support cooperation activities and agreements with associations and institutions in other countries; iv) to promote specific initiatives aimed at supporting associations and, more generally, the aggregation of fishing companies in the territories, in harmony with the action taken by the European national and regional institutional levels. NetEC has carried out European planning activities in the latest EU 2014-2020 programming: EMFF, LIFE, Horizon 2020, SME Instruments. NetEC offices are in Rome (Italy) and Brussels (Belgium). NetEC will be responsible for the WP2 "Dissemination and communication" and the task 2.1 "Dissemination strategy".</p>	
<b>Key staff</b>	
<p><b>Stefania Valentini, Female, MSc Literature and Philosophy, CEO of NetEC</b></p> <p>Stefania Valentini has twenty-five years' experience in the design, coordination and management of integrated interventions for local development and active labour market policies using direct and indirect EU funding. In the field of EU policies, she coordinates, on behalf of her clients, feasibility studies and analyses, market research of entrepreneurial initiatives, assistance and access to financing instruments, business planning, start-up mentoring. Stefania has drafted projects in the framework of several EU programmes, in particular in the latest EU programming 2014-2020: EMFF, LIFE, Horizon 2020, etc. She drafted and managed several European initiatives and projects under the European Strategy for Blue Growth, financed by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and European programmes granting direct funds. Since 2010 she is in charge of the Representative Office of FEDERPESCA in Brussels to the European Institutions and to the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on behalf of the Italy-IORA Committee. She works for the "Blue Italian Growth" (BIG) Technological Cluster on behalf of FEDERPESCA, the Italian Federation of fishing enterprises, as the coordinator of the Working Group on the Biotic resources. She represented the BIG cluster in international summits like "Marseille 5+5 – Sommet des deux rives", the Forum of the Mediterranean, and in the task-force on Bioeconomy of the Italian Prime Minister's Office, on the "RENAISSANCE" initiative, (REstoratioN of the mArIne ecoSyStem of the Adriatic-ioNian maCro rEgion), a project on the recovery and recycling of plastics at sea and fishing waste. From 2003 to 2011 she has been working as the coordinator of the "Development, research and rural experimentation programme of Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo)" development cooperation project, financed by the Lazio Region. In 2002 - 2003 she collaborated with several Local and National Authorities in the presentation of projects within the DAPHNE and joint actions (Leonardo, Socrates and Youth) community development programmes. She collaborates with the Centro Studi della Sardegna Antonio Gramsci of Cagliari in the research project "The mines and the movement of miners" funded by the Sardinia Region and in project "For a modern people identity: autonomy as a principle and practice of self-determination and self-government", funded by the European Union. From 1993 until 2003 she worked at the Italian Trade Union "CGIL" and in particular at the Institute for Cooperation in Developing Countries - National CGIL Development Project -, as coordinator of EU funded projects in Italy. Subsequently, she was hired by the Institute for Economic and Social Research of the CGIL (National IRES), as Communication Manager of the President. She owns a degree in Literature and Philosophy at the Sapienza University of Rome.</p> <p><b>Federico Gallas, Male, PhD, Project assistant</b></p>	

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Federico Gallas has twenty years of experience in project design and management of international cooperation projects and in the strategic planning of European non-profit organisations. He has coordinated complex international partnership projects, working in close contact with a variety of stakeholders. He is a lecturer in design at the Master's Degree Course "Aid Relations in Development relationships in development contexts and national and international cooperation and international cooperation" at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, now in its 14th edition.

**Cesare Nonnis Marzano, Male, PhD, Project assistant**

Cesare Nonnis Marzano has twenty years of experience in the design and implementation of business strategies for SMEs. He has held Marketing and Communication Management roles within multinational companies in the sport, fashion, retail and real estate sectors. From 2014 to 2020, he led the operations in Italy and France of leading real estate development and property management companies, of which he was co-founder and Managing Director. He is an adjunct professor at the Masters "Consumer and Retail Management" and "International Luxury Management" at the Business School of ilSole24Ore in Milan.

**Projects or Activities**

Italian MoFA Project: IORA Training on sustainable fisheries (2020-2021). Commissioned by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, NetEC has implemented a training course on sustainable fisheries for countries associated with IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association): in 2020 a series of webinars on Fisheries and Aquaculture and in 2021 a week-long seminar in Rome, which was attended - in addition to the IORA Secretariat - by officials from each of the ministries responsible for fisheries in Somalia and Yemen as well as delegations from other IORA countries. In particular, the following topics were addressed: Sustainable fishing, sustainable use of resources and conservation of stocks; Fishing gear, vessel modernisation and safety kits for fishermen - improvement and maintenance of fishing habitat; Marketing and marketing (branding and traceability); Cold storage, fresh and frozen chain and fish processing - sharing regulations.

Progetto "Un mare di inclusione" (2018-2020) (A Sea of Inclusion). The project stems from the proponents' desire to ensure the socio-economic inclusion of 16 young people aged between 18 and 29 in the Municipality of Rome's X Municipality (Ostia) and its surrounding areas, who are experiencing social and economic hardship. The basic idea behind the project is to bring the identified target group closer to their own territory, allowing them to "re-appropriate" their history, culture and economic context and to trigger a virtuous process that will see them as protagonists. The aim is to convey the values and skills of the Maritime Chain to the sixteen young people, addressing all the areas involved, from shipbuilding, fishing production and tourist fishing to the issues concerning the sustainability of the chain and tourism related to it. It will also try to provide the young people, through the phases of orientation, empowerment, accompaniment, and individual and family psychological support, with useful tools for the analysis of their own strengths and weaknesses and the reconstruction of their past, in order to reconstruct their professional and personal biography.

"Women in the world of fisheries 'Veer' in Europe and the case Italy" (2017). The study, commissioned by the Osservatorio Nazionale della Pesca (the Italian Fisheries Observatory), aimed to be a starting point for a joint reflection on a complex and not yet sufficiently developed issue as the role of women in the fisheries sector. One of the driving forces of this work focuses on the importance of obtaining and analyzing data related to the female world in the fisheries sector, in order to present a comprehensive and updated statistical framework. The study wants to achieve this goal through targeted objectives: Introduce the current "gender" legal framework; Examine the role of women in the fisheries sector; Manage and collect data relating to women's work in the fisheries sector; Provide the first list of obstacles and problems related to the presence of women in the fisheries sector; Identify methods and tools to resolve these problems. This support to the women's organizations and public authorities' efforts, at European, national and local levels will help to enhance the role played by women in fisheries and coastal communities.

EFF (European Fisheries Fund) Project: "Promozione della cooperazione nazionale e transnazionale tra gruppi e zone di pesca ed acquacoltura" (2014-2016) (Promotion of national and transnational co-operation between fishery and aquaculture groups and areas). The general objective of the project was to promote activities able to support the role of the Coastal Action Group (GAC) "Costa di Toscana" and of the local enterprises, determining a development strategy through a series of national and transnational co-operation relations to relaunch the potential of the fishery and aquaculture sector. The project has created favorable conditions for the opening of new markets, the enlargement of existing ones and the identification of new business development opportunities, in accordance with European growth objectives, in terms of sustainability, business strengthening, employment and consumer protection.

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#### affiliated Entities / Associated Partners

n/a

#### Participant 5

Legal name (short name):

ENALEIA

#### Description of participant

Enaleia is a Greek social start-up focused on educating fishers on sustainable fishing techniques and is currently dedicated to the project Mediterranean Cleanup, a wide-scale cleanup of marine plastic in the Mediterranean region in collaboration with professional fishers. The marine plastic collected by fishermen and the used fishing equipment is recycled and upcycled, being integrated into the circular economy. In the Greek Project Area, Enaleia will support fishers' engagement for fishing-for-litter activities, interviews and questionnaires for the evaluation of the project impact on that category. ENALEIA will be responsible for the tasks 5.2 "Fishers involvement in a circular economy experiment" and 5.3 "Responsible waste management practice".

#### Key staff

**Lefteris Arapakis, Male, Director, General project manager**

Responsible for the general coordination and management of the project.

**Nikos Therapos, Male, Full time team, Head of policy & finance**

Responsible for the coordination of partnerships, implementation of the fundraising plan, financial and legal compliance.

**Constantinos Giannakopoulos, Male, Full time team, Operations & circular economy manager**

Responsible for the implementation of the operational plan and the monitoring of the upcycling and recycling procedures (from the bottom of the sea to the port and then to recycling/upcycling facilities).

#### Projects or Activities

**Fishing School:** The first school of professional fisheries in Greece, providing environmentally-friendly education on fisheries profession to young unemployed people and ensuring their direct connection to the labour market.

**The Mediterranean CleanUp:** The collection of marine plastic from the seabed in collaboration with professional fishermen, as well as the prevention of marine pollution by collecting nets and the integration of this plastic into the circular economy.

**Fish Smarter:** The training of professional fishermen in fisheries tourism, offering them the opportunity to increase their incomes by keeping fish stocks at healthy levels.

**Bahari Safi:** The expansion of Mediterranean CleanUp in Kenya, in collaboration with a local fishing

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association and a recycling company, with the aim of collecting marine plastic from the seabed, preventing marine pollution through the collection of nets and integrating this plastic into the circular economy.

Catching the Potential: Participation in a cooperation program together with academies and fisheries organizations from 7 European countries, to create a single course focusing on sustainable fishing.

**affiliated Entities / Associated Partners**

n/a

**Participant 6**

**Legal name (short name):**

Polytechnic University of Marche (UNIVPM)

**Description of participant**

Legal entity and its main tasks:

UNIVPM is made up of 12 Departments in the technical scientific fields spanning from Engineering, Life Sciences, Agriculture, Economics, Medicine and Surgery, with about 700 lecturers and researchers, 650 administrative and technical employees. There are about 17.000 enrolled students. UNIVPM will participate in the LIFE DREAM Project through two departments, the Department of Life and Environmental Sciences (DiSVA) and the The Department of Management (DiMA).

DiSVA owns high-qualified laboratories operating in the fields of ecology, marine biology and nature conservation. DiSVA has a consolidated expertise in marine biology and ecology, botany, zoology, microbiology, chemistry, developmental biology and reproduction, algal physiology, geology and sedimentology, paleoceanography, physical oceanography, protection, conservation and restoration of marine environments. DiSVA collaborates with many Centers and Universities all over the world (USA, Canada, Belgium, France, Spain, UK, Germany, Norway, Austria, Greece, Croatia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Madagascar, Singapore, Israel and Japan) in the framework of national and international research projects and networks of excellence.

DiSVA has participated over the last 15 years in more than 10 EU projects and has a wealth of experience in the ecology of benthic communities and marine biogeochemical processes, and in pilot studies on marine restoration practices in temperate and tropical seas. DiSVA carries out research activities worldwide with specific attention on coastal (hard and soft bottom) and deep-sea areas, including the Western and Eastern Mediterranean, Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic and Antarctic Ocean and Sub-Antarctic regions. Concerning the area of the proposal, the participant group, belonging to the laboratory of Marine Biology and Ecology, has led and is leading two EU projects on restoration, MERCES (<http://www.merces-project.eu/>) and AFRIMED (<http://www.afrimed-project.eu/>), consolidating its expertise in the field. Still, the group led the project IDEM on the implementation of Marine strategy Framework Directive in the deep Mediterranean Sea, with special attention to set up guidelines for the protection of deep-sea ecosystems (<http://www.msfd-idem.eu/>).

DiMA is one of the very few "Excellent Dep." of the nation. It has participated over the last 20 years in more than 20 EU projects and has a wealth of experience in "measuring" the impact of ecology on economy and population. DiMA carries out research activities worldwide with specific attention on the cost-benefit analysis of circular economic models using Agent Based Models, Input-Output and Supply Chains.

Role in LIFE DREAM Project:

Considering its strong expertise in restoration and conservation of deep-sea habitats, UNIVPM will lead WP4 and also task 4.2 on the concept, design, building and deployment of MARS in the targeted areas. It

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will also lead T2.3 (WP2 communication and dissemination) about stakeholder involvement and co-lead task 6.1 (WP6 monitoring) on the monitoring of the health status and recovery of deep reefs after Marine Litter removal, also thanks to the deployment of video-cameras, a field where they have a strong expertise. UNIVPM will also participate in WP1, all WP2 tasks, WP3 activities and all WP6 tasks. Moreover, through the participation of DIMA, UNIVPM will also develop socio-economic models in WP6.

#### Key staff

DISVA staff:

##### **Emanuela Fanelli , Female, Associate professor of Ecology, Deep-sea biology expert**

Her research is focused on marine food webs, anthropogenic impacts (especially fishery) on marine communities, and deep-sea conservation and monitoring. Vice-president of the Course of Marine Biology for the UNIVPM, coordinator of the Marine Ecology course for the International Master IMBRSea, alternate representant for the Deputy chamber at the Italian General Assembly of UNESCO. She has been involved in several national, Spanish and EU financed research projects and she is author of 84 papers in ISI journals (H: 32 and about 2800 citations; Scholar).

##### **Roberto Danovaro, Male, Full professor of Marine Biology and Ecology, Deep-sea biology expert**

President of the Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Naples, Italy. Past president of the Italian Society of Ecology, and of the Italian Society of Limnology and Oceanography and of the European Federation of Scientific Societies. President of the Scientific Council of WWF Italy. Member of several international panels (IUCN, UNEP), he has recently coordinated 3 EU projects (Horizon2020: MERCES, DG ENV: IDEM, EASME: AFRIMED). Member of the EU Academy of Science. RD is a marine biologist, working on deep-sea biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, and on the impact of climate change on deep-sea ecosystem restoration. RD received the Prize BMC Biology (London, 2010), the Award of French Society of Oceanography (2011), and the ENI Award "Protection of the Environment" (2013). In 2020 has been recognised by ExpertScape as the top World Scientist in the Category "Ocean and Seas" in the decade 2010-2020. RD is author of ca. 450 ISI papers, >27000 citations (GS) and H=91.

##### **Antonio Dell'anno, Male, Full professor of Ecology,**

Vice-Director of DISVA. Chair of Marine Conservation Biology and of Environmental Sustainability and President of the Master Degree Program in Marine Biology. Member of the scientific committee of the National Technological Cluster Blue Italian Growth (BIG) and of the Inter-University Consortium High-Tech Recycling. Co-founder of two academic spin off. He performs cutting-edge ecological research with a special focus on marine ecosystem functioning and issues dealing with environmental pollution, sustainability and restoration. He participated in several international EU funded projects and is author of ca. 140 articles in peer-reviewed journals (H: 53 and > 9000 citations; Scholar).

##### **Cinzia Corinaldesi, Female, Associate professor of Ecology**

CC research primarily focuses on the study of multiple impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning and on several aspects of marine ecosystem functioning, with special attention to microbial ecology. In 2020, CC was awarded as World Expert on Oceans and Seas (top 0.05% from a 10-year analysis by Expertscape). CC has produced > 100 ISI publications (H: 42, citations: 6200, Scholar).

##### **Cristina Gambi, Female, Technician, Adjunct professor in Fundamentals of Ecological Systems Analysis**

Her research interest is in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in coastal and deep-sea ecosystems. She was the scientific project manager of the H2020 MERCES project. She has participated in 13 EU financed programs. She is author of 60 articles in ISI journals (H: 37 and about 5300 citations; Scholar).

##### **Silvia Bianchelli, Female, Researcher, Adjunct professor in Ecology and Conservation of Nature and Protected Areas Management**

Her research interest is in the field of relationships between biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in coastal and deep-sea ecosystems, also under natural and anthropogenic impact. She is the scientific project manager of the EMFF AFRIMED project. She has participated in ca. 5 EU financed programs. She is author of ca. 40 articles in ISI journals (H: 23 and about 1666 citations; Scholar).

DIMA staff:

##### **Mauro Gallegati, Male, Full Professor, Full professor of Advanced Macroeconomics**

He has been visiting Professor in several Universities and research institutes, including Cambridge, Stanford, MIT, Columbia, Santa Fe Institute, Brookings Institution and ETH. Prof Gallegati is on the

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editorial board of several economic journals, among which the Journal of Economic Interaction and Coordination. His research includes business fluctuations, nonlinear dynamics, models of financial fragility and heterogeneous interacting agents. Mauro Gallegati is well known from his widely cited work with Joseph E. Stiglitz, developing theory of asymmetric information and heterogeneous agents and their applications. He published papers in the top journals on economics, economic history and history of economic analysis, nonlinear mathematics, applied economics, complexity and econophysics. The research group lead by prof. Gallegati studies agent-based models of economic phenomena, with a special focus on the performance of heterogeneous, interacting agents, generating aggregate fluctuations, coordination failures and emerging phenomena in general.

#### Projects or Activities

MERCES (Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Changing European Seas), H2020 Environment & Resources; Prof Roberto Danovaro Coordinator;

AFRIMED (Algal Forest Restoration In the MEDiterranean Sea),EASME/EMFF/2017/1.2.1.12/S4-Restoring marine ecosystems in the Med Sustainable Blue Economy; Prof Roberto Danovaro Coordinator;

IDEM (Implementation of The MSFD to the Deep Mediterranean Sea), DG Environment project; Prof Roberto Danovaro Coordinator;

DEVOTES (DEvelopment Of innovative Tools for understanding marine biodiversity and assessing good Environmental Status), FPVII, WP Leader;

HERMIONE (Hotspot Ecosystem Research and Man's Impact On European Seas) (FPVII), WP leader.

#### affiliated Entities / Associated Partner

n/a

#### Participant 7

##### Legal name (short name):

Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior De Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)

##### Description of participant

The Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) is Spain's largest public research institution and ranks third among Europe's largest research organisations. Attached to the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, the CSIC plays a key role in scientific and technological policy in Spain and worldwide. The CSIC has 120 institutes spread across the country, supporting research and training across a wide range of knowledge, from the most basic or fundamental aspects of science to the most complex technological developments; it carries out research in all fields of knowledge, distributed in three global areas: Life, Society and Materia. The CSIC is a major player in the development of the European Research Area (ERA) and therefore a significant contributor to the European integration process. In 2020, the CSIC has obtained around 600 projects in H2020, with a total EU financial contribution of >200 million euros. As for European and International Programmes other than H2020, the CSIC has achieved 26 LIFE (2014 – 2020) grants. The CSIC has also a broad experience managing large and singular infrastructures, including the RV "Hesperides" and the RV "Sarmiento de Gamboa". The CSIC Marine Sciences Institute (ICM), where DREAMS Spanish associated beneficiaries are based, is the largest marine research centre in Spain and one of the most important in the Mediterranean region, with >300 researchers in different fields of oceanography (physics, chemistry, geology, biology, seafloor mapping). CSIC will be responsible for the WP3 "Increasing knowledge base".

**Key staff****Albert Palanques, Male, Professor, member of the Marine Geosciences Department of ICM-CSIC**

Master Degree in Marine Geology in the University of Barcelona; PhD in Marine Sciences in the Institute of Earth Sciences "Jaume Almera" of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC, Spain), with topics on marine sediment dynamics and geochemistry. He conducted a postdoctoral stage at Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University (USA) working on shelf-edge sediment exchange processes. He currently works as Research Professor at the Institute of Marine Sciences (ICM-CSIC), where he was Director between 2009 and 2018, and where he leads research studies on sediment, geochemical fluxes and anthropogenic impact on marine sedimentary systems. He has published more than 200 research papers, 154 of them in international peer-reviewed journals, and supervised 11 PhD thesis. He has been the main coordinator of several research projects and has participated as CSIC scientific responsible in several EU projects. He also participated in Research Projects of the Office Naval Research (ONR-USA) and National Science Foundation (NSF-USA), and has been the principal investigator in several contracts with private companies and Administration.

**Emilio Garcia Ladona, Male, senior scientist, member of the Physical Oceanography Department of ICM-CSIC**

Degree (1986) and PhD in Physics (1991) at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB-Spain). He currently works as Senior Researcher at the Marine Sciences Institute of the Spanish National Research Council (ICM-CSIC). Main research interests cover a wide range of topics focused on Physical Oceanography as: Ocean mesoscale processes (mixed layer dynamics, instabilities, topographic interactions and shelf/slope exchanges), Lagrangian dynamics, Western Mediterranean Circulation, Numerical Modelling and Operational Oceanography, Pattern recognition techniques applied to ocean dynamics and satellite data. During his career he participated in a total of 53 international and national research projects covering the above mentioned topics, and being Principal Investigator in 15 of them. He has been involved in many European programs in marine sciences since the beginning of his career (EUROMODEL, OMEGA, MATER, MERSEA, etc). During the last 10 years he focussed on projects aimed to develop cost efficient sensors of new generation for monitoring the marine environment (COMMONSENSE), to identify gaps in the European Observations networks (ConnectinGEO), to develop strategies for marine safety procedures and risk analysis to face pollution events in the Mediterranean (TOSCA, MEDESS-4MS).

**Aguzzi Jacopo, Male, scientist, member of the Renewable Resource Department of ICM-CSIC**

Degree in Biology at the University of Rome Tor Vergata (1999); PhD in marine Sciences (2002) at Universidad Politecnica de Cataluña (UPC). Research interests: Relate the presence (and behaviour) of marine species to overall changes in sampled richness and biodiversity at different temporal scales, with the use of new robotic monitoring technologies. His research is presently focussing on the establishment of best monitoring practices to extract ecological indicators with the use of cabled observatories, crawlers, ROVs, AUVs and neutrino telescopes imaging. He was Scientific Advisor of the Ocean Network Canada (ONC; Science Theme Leader), Member of the Working Group on Nephrops Surveys (WGNEPS-ICES); and of the International network for Scientific investigation of DEEP-sea ecosystems Community (InDEEP). SCOPUS: 163 SCI papers, H-factor of 33

**Guillen Jorge, Male, senior scientist, member of the Marine Geosciences Department of ICM-CSIC**

Degree in Geology in 1983 (Barcelona University, UB), master in Geology in 1987 (UB), PhD in Marine Sciences at the Polytechnic University of Catalunya (UPC) in 1992 (award to the best PhD in Marine Sciences for the period 1992-1993). His main research topics are sedimentary dynamics in continental margins, with a main focus on sediment exchanges between different settings and influence of the benthic communities on sediment transport dynamics. My research is mainly based on "in situ" and remote observations about sediment distribution, hydrography, morphology, impacts on benthic communities, and waves and currents to study sediment transport processes and the morphodynamic evolution. He has been responsible of the first deployment of fully instrumented benthic tripods in the Mediterranean and the video monitoring station in Spain (second in Europe), which is currently working. Finally, he is also involved in coastal management strategies and the evaluation of coastal risks. He participated in 34 research projects and 17 relevant contracts (14 of them as Principal Researcher). He published 15 book chapters, edit 1 book and authored 122 research papers (74 in JCR journals), participating in more than 150 presentations in congress and workshops.

**Simarro Gonzalo, Male, scientist, member of the Marine Geosciences Department of ICM-CSIC**

Degree as Civil Engineer at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia in Barcelona (1998); PhD in Civil Engineering (stream hydraulics) at the University of Castilla La Mancha (2003). Stage in 2004 at Cornell University (NY, USA) working on nonlinear water wave propagation models and boundary layers with Prof. Philip L.-F. Liu. Assistant Lecturer at the University La Mancha in 2005, upgraded to Associate Professor in 2008. In the CSIC Marine Sciences Institute (ICM-CSIC) since 2011, where he is currently a Tenured

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Scientist. His research is focused on sediment transport and hydrodynamic models in continental margins and beach morphodynamics. Main expertise in numerical models (water wave propagation and bottom boundary layer) and video monitoring remote sensing techniques. He participated in more than 20 research projects (5 of them as PI) and more than 10 relevant contracts. He published 10 book chapters, over 75 research papers (most of them in JCR journals), participated in more than 50 presentations in congress and workshops and been advisor of 3 PhD thesis.

#### Projects or Activities

The ICM already leaded 2 EU LIFE Projects, one of them (LIFE+ INDEMARES) aimed to characterize and map the Spanish marine areas to include as conservation zones within the EU Natura 2000 List, among them the "Seco de los Olivos", which is one of the DREAM target areas. A third LIFE Project lead by ICM (LIFE ECOREST) is currently active and aims to restore and protect a large deep-sea area of the Catalan (NW Mediterranean) margin. Furthermore, ICM has been the host institution for EU-ERC grants, Marie Curie fellowships, training networks and other European and international projects (FP6, FP7, H2020), conducting research activities in almost all the seas and oceans and dealing with the topics addressed by DREAM.

#### affiliated Entities / Associated Partners

An associated partner of CSIC will be the Fish Producers Organization of Almeria – OPP71, recognized by the EU Regulation, article no 1379/2013. The OPP71 is based in Almeria, the closest fishing port to the Spanish study area of the LIFE-DREAM Project (Seco de los Olivos seamount). The OPP71 is already involved in several projects aimed at the quantification of Marine Litter (ML) collected during fishing activities. Members of OPP71 will be engaged to select and stock the plastic of collected ML dedicated to the prototype demonstration in the Almeria port, as proposed in LIFE-DREAM. The OPP71 will also support members of LIFE-DREAM during the demonstration days.

#### Participant 8

Legal name (short name):

University of Naples Federico II (UNINA)

#### Description of participant

The Marine Ecology Group at the Department of Biology (DiB) at the University of Naples Federico II, is very active in the study of patterns of distribution of biodiversity both of benthic assemblages and phytoplankton in the water column. The mission is to contribute to a better understanding of ecological processes across scales, through a multidisciplinary approach, integrating laboratory and field experiments and descriptive surveys. In the last 20 years, the group has developed a recognized experience in assessing the effects of humans on marine-coastal assemblages and in supporting conservation projects with baseline information, guidelines and methodological tools. UNINA will be responsible for the WP6 "Monitoring and evaluation" and the task 3.3 "Multi-criteria analysis".

#### Key staff

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**Simonetta Frascchetti, Female, Top grade researcher, Full professor in Ecology**

Full Professor in Ecology, President of the European Marine Biological Symposium and Member of the Administrative Council of the Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn. She combines field descriptive research, manipulative experiments and spatial analysis techniques for gaining a better understanding of the pattern of distribution of marine biodiversity and of the processes, both natural and human driven, shaping marine communities. Setting criteria and priorities for the implementation of the management, the conservation and the restoration of the Mediterranean Sea is central in her research. Principal investigator in national and international projects, she is also part of international research networks with the aim of producing guidelines relevant to orient environmental policies at EU levels. Italian Expert for the identification of Specially Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea (SPAMI) for the Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA). Invited speaker in international initiatives and congresses. Member of the International Commission of the Margalef Prize for the acknowledgment of outstanding scientific careers in the fields of ecology and Member of the Editorial Board of international journals, she has acquired a solid experience in science evaluation, recruitment and national and international promotions.

[http://scholar.google.it/citations?hl=en&user=debN35MAAAAJ&view\\_op=list\\_works&cstart=60](http://scholar.google.it/citations?hl=en&user=debN35MAAAAJ&view_op=list_works&cstart=60)

**Erika Fabbrizzi, Female, First stage researcher, PhD student**

Good expertise in the development of modelling tools by means of machine learning techniques for the study of species and habitat distribution in the marine environment under climate changes, supporting their management, conservation and restoration.

**Alberto Colletti, Male, First stage researcher, PhD student**

Good expertise on biodiversity of rocky substrates, assessment of the effects of human disturbance on benthic assemblages.

**Projects or Activities**

2016-ongoing: Actions for Marine Protected Areas (AMAre, Interreg MED) (<http://mspplatform.eu/projects/amare-actions-marine-protected-areas>) and Actions for Marine Protected Areas PLUS (Interreg Med, AMAre PLUS);

2012-2016: COCONET – towards COast to COast NETWORKS of marine protected areas (from the shore to the high and deep sea), coupled with sea-based wind energy potential (CoCoNET) - EU FP7 Ocean 2011 - 287844 (<http://www.coconet-fp7.eu/>);

2016-2019: Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Changing Europeans Seas (MERCES, <http://www.merces-project.eu/>) (Horizon 2020);

2013-2016: PRIN (2010-2011) - Observing, modelling and TEsting synergies and TRade-offs for the adaptive management of multiple Impacts in coastal Systems (TETRIS);

2018-2019: Achieving coherent networks of marine protected areas: analysis of the situation in the Mediterranean Sea (Service request 08/09/2017 under ENV.C.2/FRA/2016/0017).

**affiliated Entities / Associated Partners**

n/a

**Participant 9**

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<b>Legal name (short name):</b>	Region of Apulia (RoA)
<b>Description of participant</b>	
<p>The Regional Service Parks and Biodiversity Protection is responsible for Natura 2000 sites, including the proposal of the institution of new Sites of Community Importance and special areas of conservation, the evaluation of the management plans and the measures for conservation of the Sites of Community Importance and of the minimum uniform conservation criteria for Special Protection Areas for their approval, the promotion of monitoring activities to evaluate the conservation status of the sites through the coordination of competent units and delegated authorities. Moreover, it is responsible for the policy about natural conservation through the network of regional protected areas, with the approval of the plans of regional parks and the expression of advice for the approval of the plans of national parks and by means of surveillance activities. The Regional Service is involved in the implementation of the European programs, with the participation in LIFE+ projects sustaining environmental projects and natural protection and conservation. Finally, it represents the Regional Observatory for Biodiversity, promoting the knowledge and the conservation and valorization of biodiversity and of the environmental value of Apulia territories, together with the participation of citizens in the framework of sustainable development and environmental protection. All these tasks perfectly fit project activities. RoA will be responsible for the task 4.3 "Designation/Update of N2K sites for Deep Reefs".</p>	
<b>Key staff</b>	
<p><b>Caterina Dibitonto, Female, Director, Manager of the environmental monitoring section</b></p> <p>MSc in Chemical Engineering at Politecnico di Torino, with a Master in Risk Analysis. For more than 20 years she has been working in public administration in the environmental field at ARPA Piemonte (environmental regional agency) and Region of Apulia. From 2010 she has directed the sectors responsible for environmental and incidence assessments. Currently she governs the Regional sectors responsible for environmental control, for parks and biodiversity (including Natura 2000 sites and regional parks) and for regional planning in the fields of territory and environment.</p>	
<p><b>Maria Fiore, Female, Technical official, Contact person parks service and biodiversity protection</b></p> <p>She is responsible for the planning of Natura 2000 sites, including the monitoring of the PAF (Prioritized Action Framework), the evaluation of Management plans of Natura 2000 sites, the monitoring of the implementation of foreseen actions. Moreover, she contributes to the definition and implementation of projects for the protection of biodiversity. She is responsible for the collection and diffusion of data concerning protected habitats and species and for the definition of the measures of conservation for Natura 2000 sites. Finally, she provides support in infringement procedures concerning the Directives 2009/147/EC and 92/43/EEC.</p>	
<p><b>Enrico Grifoni, Male, Technical official, Contact person parks service and biodiversity protection</b></p> <p>He is responsible for the planning of natural national and regional protected areas, including the procedure for the institution of regional protected areas and the procedure for the approval of management plans of these areas. He is responsible for the advice of the Service in the framework of Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p>	
<p><b>Valentina Rubini, Female, Technical official, Contact person parks service and biodiversity protection</b></p> <p>She is responsible for the coordination and control of the managing bodies of natural protected areas and of the regional economic contribution for the management of these areas. She coordinates co-planning processes for the Plan of the Park and for the Socio-economic plan for compatible activities (regional law 19/97). She supports legislative activities in the field of natural protected areas and Natura 2000 sites. She is involved in the management of LIFE projects (LIFE16 NAT/IT/000659 EGYPTIAN VULTURE - Misure per la conservazione del capovaccaio, Zone Umide Sipontine, Un Falco per Amico) and of other financed projects in the field of biodiversity.</p>	
<p><b>Concetta Sgarra, Female, Technical official, Contact person parks service and biodiversity protection</b></p> <p>She is responsible for advice on the implementation of the conservation measures for Natura 2000 sites, on the definition of guidelines for impact assessment in Natura 2000 sites, on the adoption of compensatory measures. She is responsible for the collection of data about captures and accidental killing</p>	

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of specific faunal species included in the Annex D, letter a) of DPR 357/97. She updates the Natura 2000 database and the relevant standard forms. She performs any other task connected with the conservation of habitats and species in the framework of Directives 2009/147/EC and 92/43/EEC.

#### Projects or Activities

BIOMAP P.O. FESR 2007/2013 - axis IV. line 4.4. Ecological network. Habitat mapping of bio constructions within the Natura2000 sites along the coast of the Apulian Region and assessment of the cumulative impact along the coastal areas.

#### affiliated Entities / Associated Partners

n/a

#### Participant 10

##### Legal name (short name):

Region of Thessaly (RoT)

##### Description of participant

The Region of Thessaly is a public organization who participates and/or coordinates numerous European projects and subsequently develops high-quality work based on the projects results and presents it throughout the world. Additionally proposes measures for the protection of the environment and especially of sensitive areas (habitats etc.) and coordinates the monitoring and environmental protection actions. One of the most important issues for the Region of Thessaly is the environmental protection and the Region organizes events, workshops, and/or anything that could increase public awareness concerning the environment. The Region of Thessaly has important competence in project management, financial and time-schedule planning and reporting, due to its experience in EU projects and the management of Programmes of Cohesion Policy. Additionally the Region has worked on a wide range of topics related to the environment and gained experience from projects related to conservation and promotion and the responsibilities arising from the law in relation to environmental protection. Moreover, the Region can actively contribute to the protection & preservation of the marine environment resulting from raising public awareness and providing policy consultation. RoT will be responsible for the task 7.3 "Pilot action in shallow waters".

##### Key staff

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**Angeliki Veneti, Female, MSc in Urban, Spatial Planning, Urban and Regional Development, Director of Industry Energy and Natural Resources Department**

Mrs Aggeliki Veneti is a Rural and Surveying Engineer, with postgraduate studies (MSc) in Urban, Spatial Planning, Urban and Regional Development, and 26 years of professional experience. She has extensive experience in preparing and evaluating sectoral and regional development plans and operational programs, as well as in the implementation of Operational Programs and projects co-financed by EU funds, policy analysis and programming interventions in the areas of regional development. It also communicates with many people in different roles: politicians, administrators, stakeholders, NGOs, citizens. Participation in conferences representing the region as well as presentations of its activities with different groups and people in various parts of Thessaly or outside Thessaly. Combining the scientific background with a management position in a public authority, combining scientific and policy issues. Able to understand what the community and its demands are looking for and to harness the benefits and results of a European project / project at local, regional, national and European level, as well as to the public and to the private / local end-users of the projects. Project coordinator of the MED project BLUEMED. Contact point at the REGHUB 2.0 network of the European Committee of the Regions.

**Apostolos Goulas, Male, MSc in International Business, Administrative assistant**

Mr. Apostolos Goulas graduated from the Department of Economics and Commerce at the University of Messina/Department of Economy and holds an MSc in International Business, Coventry University, UK. In his Master's thesis he worked on the development and classification of strategic groups on the Athens Stock Exchange. Also holds an MSc in Cultural Organisations Management from the Hellenic Open University. His master thesis was Creative Europe: Culture as a factor of support to the European Fulfillment. He has been doing his PhD in the last years and is a research associate at the Laboratory of Rural Space of the Department of Planning, Urban Planning and Regional Development, University of Thessaly. He has been a member of the research team of the post doc research "Alternative Food Networks and Territorial Marking. The role of consumers in improving the recognition and effectiveness of participatory certification systems", at the University of Thessaly (from 01-05-2018 until 31-12-2019) He specializes in Clusters, Strategic Groups, Economic Networks, Global Marketing Management Systems, Innovation, Business Outsourcing, Strategic Marketing - Management. He has worked as a research fellow on the LACTIMED European Program (from 07-01-2013 until 30-11-2015). He worked in the BLUEMED project as an administrative assistant.

**Projects or Activities**

01/11/2016 – 31/01/2020: INTERREG MED 2014 – 2020. BLUEMED: Plan/test/coordinate Underwater Museums, Diving Parks and Knowledge Awareness Centres in order to support sustainable and responsible tourism development and promote Blue growth in coastal areas and islands of the Mediterranean <https://bluemed.interreg-med.eu/>;

BLUEMED PLUS 01/06/2021 – 31/06/2022: BlueMed PLUS aims to capitalize on the most relevant experiences, results and outputs of the previous BlueMed project (link) which ended in 2020 and focused on the enhancement of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) for the development of sustainable tourism in the coastal areas and islands of the Mediterranean;

WetMainAreas - Improving the conservation effectiveness of wetlands <http://www.interreg-balkanmed.eu/approved-project/10/>. The overall project's objective is protection, conservation and development of wetlands as a shared asset of the Balkan Mediterranean (BalkanMed) territory. BalkanMed wetland ecosystems are biodiversity hotspots with significant natural and cultural values and with high potential for territorial development and cooperation, promotion of the whole region, including ecosystem basis development, improvement of knowledge, know-how exchange and scientific capacity to make informed decisions with a positive impact on the whole territory;

**Re-Source** - Providing services for management of natural resources <https://resource-platform.eu/>. The Re-Source project tackles the need for improved transnational governance capacity in relation to the following three fields: 1) irrigation water management, 2) codes of good agricultural practices (CGAP), and 3) soil erosion risk management. In agreement with the directions of the BMP framework, it aims to capitalize on results from past projects, namely digital tools/services produced within the "Digital Convergence" framework and the "AGRO-LESS" project (ETCP Greece-Bulgaria 2007-13) and expand/customize their use into the territories of five (5) Balkan-Med countries (GR, BG, AL, Rep. of North Macedonia and CY) in order to promote governance capacity and legal framework delivery in the three aforementioned fields;

**EU-FIN** - European Union Fishing Network (Europe for Citizens 2007-2013) 09/2014- 12/2015.

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<https://interfusionservices.com/portfolio/eu-fin-a-european-union-fishing-network/>

**affiliated Entities / Associated Partners**

n/a

**Participant 11**

**Legal name (short name):**

Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn of Naples (SZN)

**Description of participant**

Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn (SZN) was founded in 1872 as a privately-owned and operated marine biological research station, where scientists and students from all over the world could perform their research on fresh material and living marine organisms and it is among the most important research institutions in the world in the fields of marine biology and ecology. In 1982 SZN gained the status of 'Special Scientific Institution' of public interest, under the supervision and control of the Ministry of Universities and Scientific and Technological Research and in 1991 became National Research Institute. SZN has the main facilities at the HQ in Naples, with several branches in Italy. SZN mission is the research on fundamental processes of biology, with specific reference to marine organisms and their diversity, in close connection with the study of their evolution and dynamics of marine ecosystems, through an integrated and interdisciplinary approach. SZN houses all dedicated laboratories and equipment necessary to complete the tasks for this project: open water sampling, molecular biology, neuroanatomy, and imaging. From 2016 SZN is the lead partner of Italian Node EMBRC-IT (European Marine Biological Resource Centre) a European 'research infrastructure' that provides researchers and companies with access to marine organisms and the facilities to study them, including experimental facilities and technological platforms. The SZN Infrastructure for Marine Research (IRM) as operative unit of the Department of Research Infrastructures for marine biological resources (RIMAR)The MEDA group of the SZN unit manages two coastal boats (M/B Vettoria and M / B Hippocampus) used for environmental monitoring, research and for teaching. They are complete with assistance in sampling, in the collection of biological material and in the acquisition of instrumental data. The service includes maintenance and calibration of on-board instrumentation and support for their use in data collection and research activities. These boats can be used to deploy scientific long-lines, BRUV, ROV and ADSR. Inside RIMAR the Unit for Technological Implementation & Marine Robotics (ITR) aims to develop prototypes of interest for research, developed on the basis of ideas and requests from the technical and scientific staff of the SZN and also deals with the management, maintenance and implementation of oceanographic instrumentation in synergy with the Infrastructure for Marine Research Unit (IRM). SZN will be responsible for the task 4.1 "Passive restoration: marine litter removal".

**Key staff**

**Simonepietro Canese, Male, Senior Technologist, Marine biologist**

Simonepietro Canese is Senior Technologist (October 2019 –present) of the- Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Napoli, Italy) and previously (2005-2019), researcher in the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (Italy). SC research interests have been for years focused on deep marine environments that represent a territory still partially unexplored, but rich in biodiversity, with several rare and protected species, whose biology and ecology is still partially under-studied. SC worked on the presence, distribution of these species, investigating biological and ecological aspects, as well documenting impacts from anthropic activities and planning monitoring activities. SC research takes place mostly in the Mediterranean Sea, although part of their work is dedicated to Antarctic and Sub Antarctic environments in collaboration with Italian and foreign research institutions. To approach these deep-sea territories, SC acquired a lot of experience with technology for seabed mapping such as Multibeam and Side Scan Sonar and have intensively used instruments for visual exploration, such as remote control vehicles (ROV), towed cameras, Lander and Bruv (Baited Remote Underwater Video). Given the difficulty and costs of these gears, SC early became interested in their management, maintenance and development, thus acquiring very good skills in the design, construction and programming of these devices, with a particular focus on the world of Open Source and Cots (Commercial off-the-shelf) technology.

**Frine Cardone, Female, Researcher, Marine biologist**

Frine Cardone is Researcher of the Department of Integrated Marine Ecology, Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Naples, Italy (June 2020). Degree and PhD in Environmental Science (University of Bari); Post-doc researcher from 2012 to 2020 at the Department of Biology of the University of Bari. The research interests are focused on the taxonomic composition, structure and distribution patterns of benthic communities associated with soft and hard substrates of the mesophotic and aphotic ecosystems. Particular attention is paid to marine bioconstructions, with studies targeting the deep Coralligenous bioconstructions, scleractinian reefs, Oyster reefs, and Cold-Water coral habitats. Through a multidisciplinary approach, aspects concerning the distribution on different geographical scales, temporal dynamics, functioning, composition and the architectural role of each taxon are developed. Another focal point of her research is the study of the Phylum Porifera, which invokes an updated taxonomy at basin scale, including the description of new species, along with the definition of biogeographical patterns. The study of their life strategies and interactions with other taxa of deep-sea sponges combines disciplines, like taxonomy, systematics, ecology and genomics. FC is (co)-author of 37 peer-reviewed articles (582 citations; H-index: 14; source Scopus accessed on 24/11/2021); <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8999-8254>. Review Editor of Deep-Sea Environments and Ecology (Frontiers in Marine Science). FC has participated in numerous scientific expeditions in the Mediterranean and in the Indian Ocean (Maldives). She has been involved in numerous national and international research programs: INTERREG Italy-Albania, BioMAP, CoCoNet, RITMARE, MIPAAF corallo rosso, FESR "corallo rosso". She collaborates with Italian and foreign research organizations such as CoNISMA and COISPA, IAMC-CNR, (Geozentrum Nordbayern di Erlangen, Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich, National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS, UMR 7263), Aix Marseille University, Institut Méditerranéen de Biodiversité et d'Ecologie marine et continentale CEAB (France), Centre d'Estudis Avançats de Blanes (Spagna). FC is a member of Deep Sea Biology Society, Italian Society of Marine Biology, Italian Zoological Union. FC is a technical diver for deep diving, specializing in underwater caving and diving instructor since 2010.

**Fabio Conversano, Male, Technologist, Oceanographer**

PhD in Environmental Sciences - Marine Sciences, technologist, Head - Research Infrastructures for marine biological resources Department at Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn of Naples), Joint Research Unit Manager EMSO-Italy (European Multidisciplinary Seafloor and water column Observatory). His research focuses on the study of hydrological and biogeochemical cycles in the Mediterranean Sea in relation to atmospheric forcing and climate change, and in particular on flows and budgets of nutrients and dissolved oxygen in its water masses. In addition, he manages, organizes, and participates in oceanographic cruises within national and international research projects and takes care of the management and organization of databases (oceanographic data collected). His roles in the projects include: scientific support to the study of fluid dynamics correlated to chemical, physical and biological data, within the context of biogeochemical cycles of the Mediterranean Sea, and the technological support for the acquisition, processing, graphical representation and analysis of oceanographic data. He participates and coordinates WP of some national funded research projects.

**Augusto Passarelli, Male, Technical manager, Oceanographer**

Augusto Passarelli is CTER IV of the RIMAR Department - Research infrastructures for marine biological resources - Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn in Naples. Graduated in Environmental Marine Sciences, University of Naples "Parthenope". He has been working at the Zoological Station since 2000, having a technical-managerial role in the activities that include sampling and analysis of physical, chemical and biological components, especially a role in problem solving on technical aspects and technological innovation for the study of physics and chemistry of the water column, planktonic and benthic communities as well as remote monitoring systems. As part of the research and monitoring activities of the SZN, AP

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plays the leading role in the management, maintenance and technological development of fixed oceanographic measurement structures (mede, buoys) that allow long-term measurements to be carried out with the continuous acquisition of meteo-marine parameters and the transmission of data in real-time; referent for the management, maintenance, acquisition, treatment, processing and graphic rendering of oceanographic data deriving from the use of oceanographic instrumentation such as multiparametric CTD profilers, in vivo fluorescence and oxygen meters, light meters, ADCP doppler current profilers and management of Rosette Sampler and plankton samplers. Among the activities carried out, AP has operated, as sampling coordinator during oceanographic campaigns, in different ecological contexts of temperate and polar areas including the Western Mediterranean, the Central Southern Mediterranean, the Adriatic, the transition areas (coastal lagoons ), Antarctica.

**Eva Salvati, Female, Researcher, Marine biologist**

Eva Salvati is a marine biologist expert in hard-bottom benthic communities. Researcher of the Department of Integrated Marine Ecology, Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Naples, Italy (February 2021). The main areas of expertise are the ecology, and distribution of zoo-benthic communities of rocky bottoms, with a particular interest in cnidarian associations of the circalittoral and bathyal zone. She started to deal with conservation issues applied to the marine environment in ISPRA in 1998, where was involved in the characterization of benthic populations for numerous feasibility studies required for the establishment of MPAs. Involved in the ETC/BD (European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity) team, for the revision of the classification of marine habitats in Europe. Responsible for sampling planning and training activities (Rocky reefs –D1) within the MSFD in ISPRA. Excellent experience in the acquisition and processing of image data from a remote platform. Starting from planning sampling according to research objectives, to onboard data logging. Competence on several software for the post-processing of photo-video images to extrapolate functional data to: -Description and distribution of habitats and species, Biodiversity assessment, Biocenotic, bionomic and thematic maps, Habitat classification. -Species distribution in relation to environmental parameters, Identification of proxies for habitat assessment, quantification of pressures, and mitigation of impacts, Long-term monitoring-Environmental impact studies, directive implementations (MSFD, HABITAT), Medium-term in situ observations of target species Insert description of expertise relevant to the project etc.

**Projects or Activities**

PNRA 18\_00237 BIOROSS - I biocostruttori del Mare di Ross ed il cambiamento climatico: ecosistemi unici ed oasi di biodiversità da monitorare e proteggere - The bioconstructors of the Ross Sea and climate change: unique ecosystems and oases of biodiversity to monitor and protect;

MIUR - Approccio multitaxa allo studio delle risposte della biodiversità italiana al cambiamento climatico - Multitaxa approach to the study of the responses of Italian biodiversity to climate change;

MIUR - Progetto Bandiera: RITMARE - Flag Project: RITMARE;

MIUR - Vulnerabilità delle coste e degli ecosistemi marini italiani ai cambiamenti climatici e loro ruolo nei cicli del carbonio oceanico - Vulnerability of Italian coasts and marine ecosystems to climate change and their role in ocean carbon cycles;

MIUR - Innovazione tecnologica per la tutela e valorizzazione degli ecosistemi marini - Technological innovation for the protection and enhancement of marine ecosystems.

**affiliated Entities / Associated Partners**

n/a

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Participant 12	
<b>Legal name (short name):</b>	National Federation of Fishing Enterprises (FEDERPESCA)
Description of participant	
<p>National Federation of Fishing Enterprises (FEDERPESCA) will act as an associated partner of the PROMETHEUS project for all the activities involving the professional fishermen and the fishing enterprises in Italy. Since 1961, FEDERPESCA brings together and represents Italian shipowners and fishing companies in their relations with local, national and European institutions. Member companies, approximately two thousand, are engaged in fishery and in the processing and marketing of fishery products, in the production of nets, equipment and services for fishery, shipbuilding and production of plants and equipment within the enlarged fish supply chain. FEDERPESCA's objectives are: i) to promote study and carry out programmes and projects aimed to improve the development of fishery companies; ii) to promote initiatives to protect marine environment and fight against marine pollution to promote surveys and studies in the field of research and professional training and on the communication; iii) to promote cooperation activities and agreements with associations and institutions in other countries. FEDERPESCA will be responsible for the WP5 "Prevention and maintenance".</p>	
Key staff	
<p><b>Francesca Biondo, Female, Director, Environmental economics expert</b></p> <p>FB deals with relations with the fisherman and associates of FEDERPESCA and manages the institutional relations of FEDERPESCA at regional and national level. She has collaborated on several projects about blue-growth and the protection of the marine environment.</p> <p><b>Roberta Caleno, Female, Administration, Manager of secretary and general affairs</b></p> <p>RC works in the administration of FEDERPESCA. She has collaborated on several projects as organizational support staff for the projects. For FEDERPESCA she follows the communication and dissemination of the project results.</p> <p>etc.</p>	
Projects or Activities	
<p>Italian MoFA Project: IORA Training on sustainable fisheries (2020-2021). Commissioned by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, NetEC has implemented a training course on sustainable fisheries for countries associated with IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association): in 2020 a series of webinars on Fisheries and Aquaculture and in 2021 a week-long seminar in Rome, which was attended - in addition to the IORA Secretariat - by officials from each of the ministries responsible for fisheries in Somalia and Yemen as well as delegations from other IORA countries. In particular, the following topics were addressed: Sustainable fishing, sustainable use of resources and conservation of stocks; Fishing gear, vessel modernisation and safety kits for fishermen - improvement and maintenance of fishing habitat; Marketing and marketing (branding and traceability); Cold storage, fresh and frozen chain and fish processing - sharing regulations.</p> <p>Progetto "Un mare di inclusione" (2018-2020) (A Sea of Inclusion). The project stems from the proponents' desire to ensure the socio-economic inclusion of 16 young people aged between 18 and 29 in the Municipality of Rome's X Municipality (Ostia) and its surrounding areas, who are experiencing social and economic hardship. The basic idea behind the project is to bring the identified target group closer to their own territory, allowing them to "re-appropriate" their history, culture and economic context and to trigger a virtuous process that will see them as protagonists. The aim is to convey the values and skills of the Maritime Chain to the sixteen young people, addressing all the areas involved, from shipbuilding, fishing production and tourist fishing to the issues concerning the sustainability of the chain and tourism related to it. It will also try to provide the young people, through the phases of orientation, empowerment,</p>	

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accompaniment, and individual and family psychological support, with useful tools for the analysis of their own strengths and weaknesses and the reconstruction of their past, in order to reconstruct their professional and personal biography.

"Women in the world of fisheries 'Veer' in Europe and the case Italy" (2017). The study, commissioned by the Osservatorio Nazionale della Pesca (the Italian Fisheries Observatory), aimed to be a starting point for a joint reflection on a complex and not yet sufficiently developed issue as the role of women in the fisheries sector. One of the driving forces of this work focuses on the importance of obtaining and analyzing data related to the female world in the fisheries sector, in order to present a comprehensive and updated statistical framework. The study wants to achieve this goal through targeted objectives: Introduce the current "gender" legal framework; Examine the role of women in the fisheries sector; Manage and collect data relating to women's work in the fisheries sector; Provide the first list of obstacles and problems related to the presence of women in the fisheries sector; Identify methods and tools to resolve these problems. This support to the women's organizations and public authorities' efforts, at European, national and local levels will help to enhance the role played by women in fisheries and coastal communities.

EFF (European Fisheries Fund) Project: "Promozione della cooperazione nazionale e transnazionale tra gruppi e zone di pesca ed acquacoltura" (2014-2016) (Promotion of national and transnational co-operation between fishery and aquaculture groups and areas). The general objective of the project was to promote activities able to support the role of the Coastal Action Group (GAC) "Costa di Toscana" and of the local enterprises, determining a development strategy through a series of national and transnational co-operation relations to relaunch the potential of the fishery and aquaculture sector. The project has created favorable conditions for the opening of new markets, the enlargement of existing ones and the identification of new business development opportunities, in accordance with European growth objectives, in terms of sustainability, business strengthening, employment and consumer protection.

#### affiliated Entities / Associated Partners

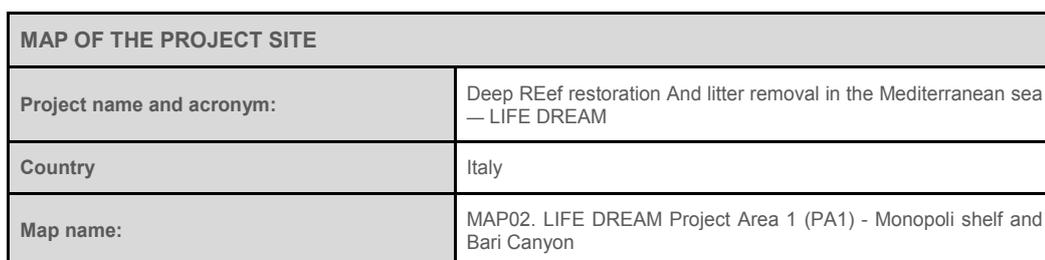
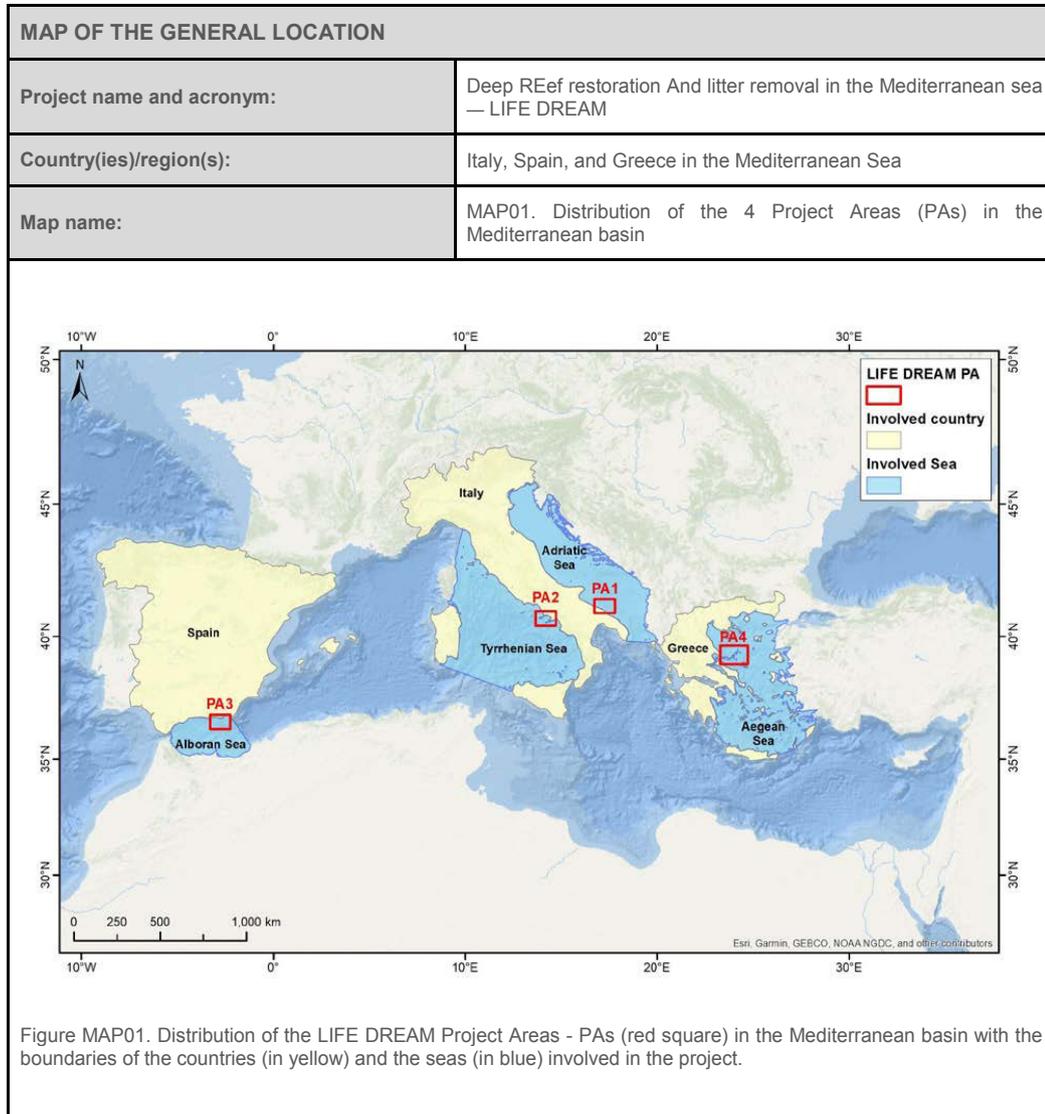
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#### HISTORY OF CHANGES

VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	15.04.2021	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	06/07/2022	The CSCI partners changed part of the key staff. Claudio Lo Iacono was deleted. Albert Palanques and Emilio Garcia Ladona included as new key person.

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**MAPS**



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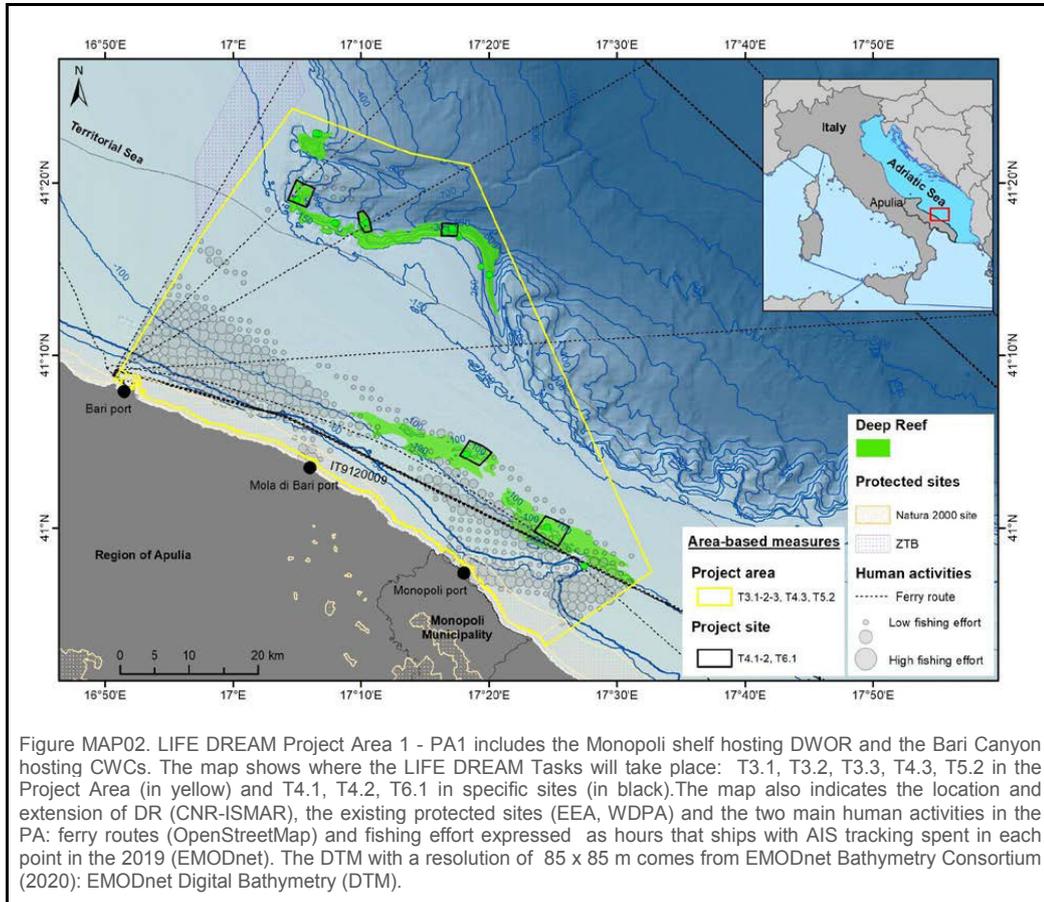
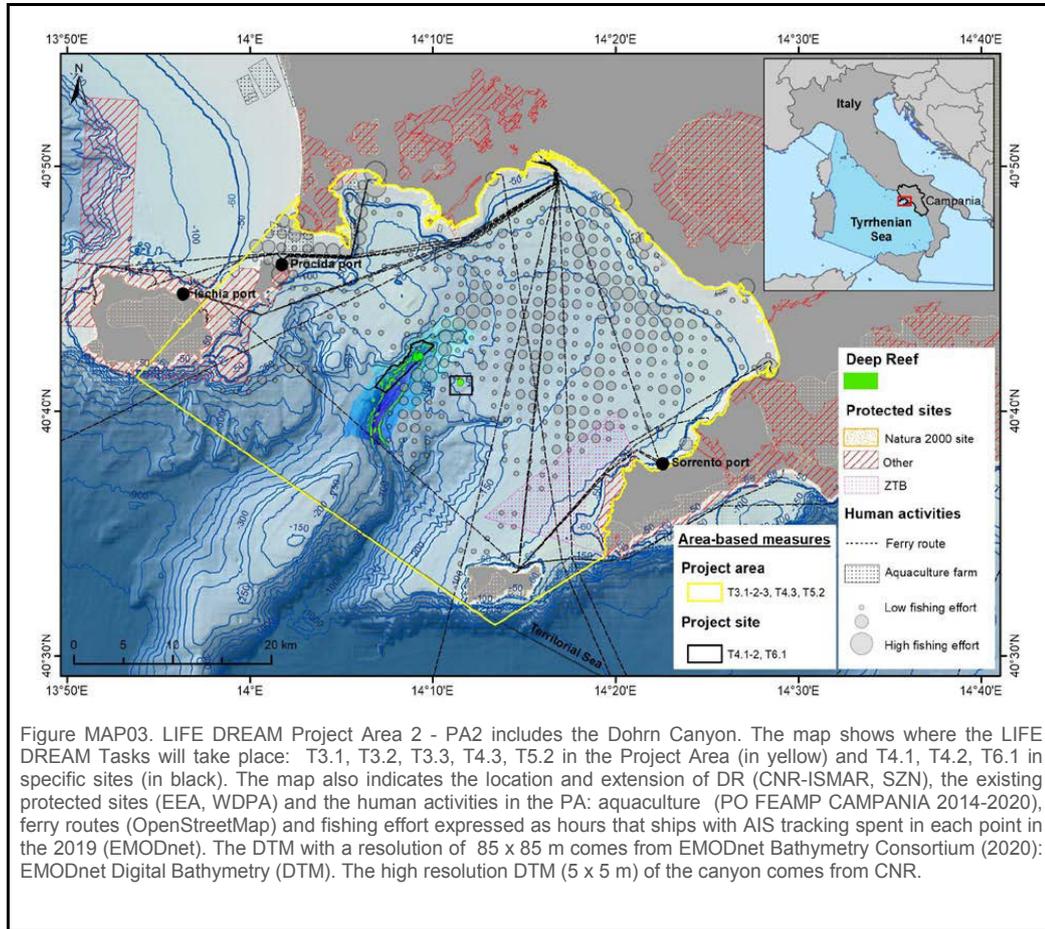


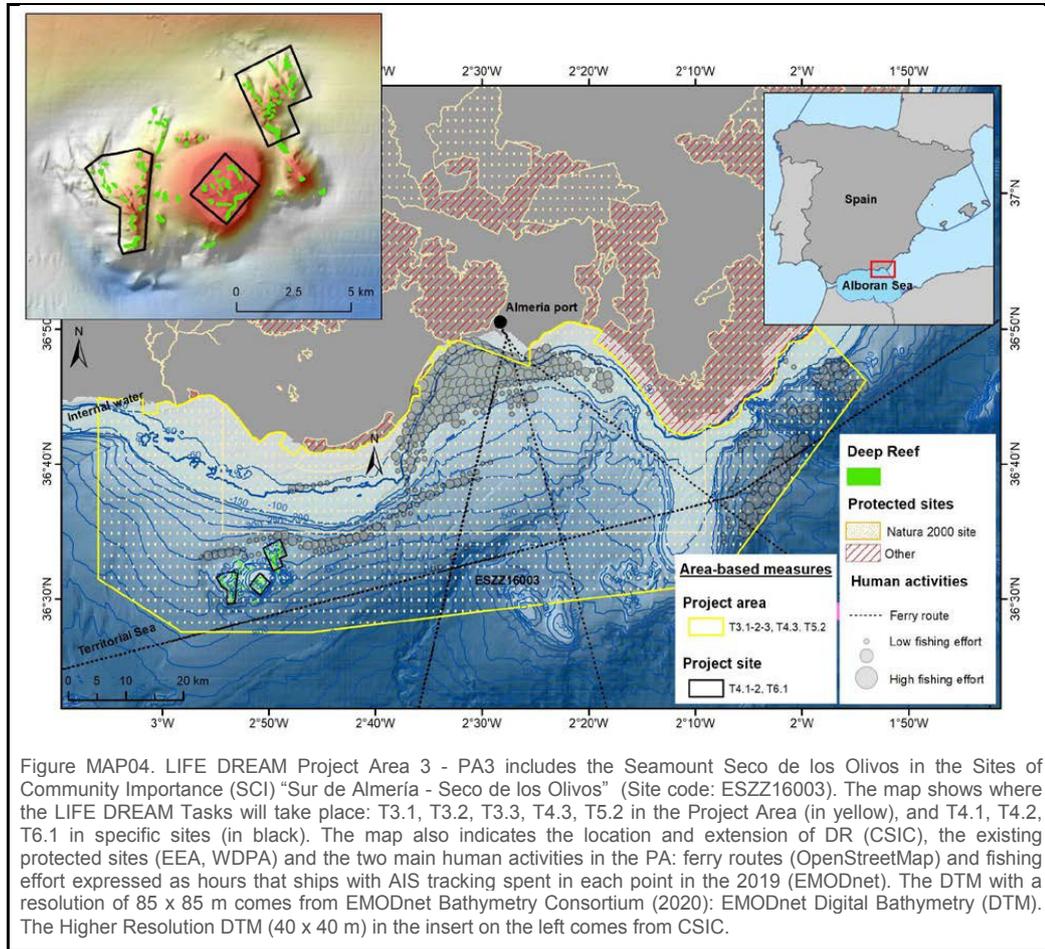
Figure MAP02. LIFE DREAM Project Area 1 - PA1 includes the Monopoli shelf hosting DWOR and the Bari Canyon hosting CWCs. The map shows where the LIFE DREAM Tasks will take place: T3.1, T3.2, T3.3, T4.3, T5.2 in the Project Area (in yellow) and T4.1, T4.2, T6.1 in specific sites (in black).The map also indicates the location and extension of DR (CNR-ISMAR), the existing protected sites (EEA, WDPA) and the two main human activities in the PA: ferry routes (OpenStreetMap) and fishing effort expressed as hours that ships with AIS tracking spent in each point in the 2019 (EMODnet). The DTM with a resolution of 85 x 85 m comes from EMODnet Bathymetry Consortium (2020): EMODnet Digital Bathymetry (DTM).

MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE	
Project name and acronym:	Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea — LIFE DREAM
Country	Italy
Map name:	MAP03. LIFE DREAM Project Area 2 (PA2) - Dohm Canyon

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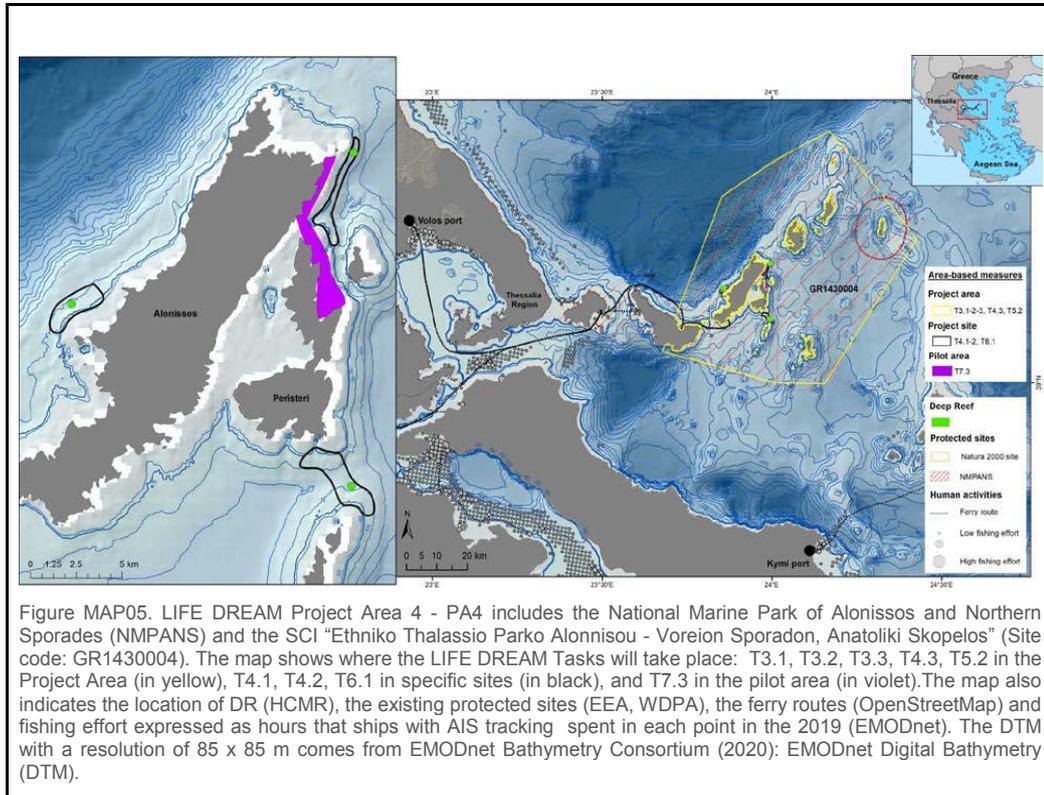


MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE	
Project name and acronym:	Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea — LIFE DREAM
Country	Spain
Map name:	MAP04. LIFE DREAM Project Area 3 (PA3) - Seco de los Olivos Seamount



MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE	
Project name and acronym:	Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea — LIFE DREAM
Country	Greece
Map name:	MAP05. LIFE DREAM Project Area 4 (PA4) - The National Marine Park of Alonissos Northern Sporades (NMPANS)

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HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	15.04.2021	Initial version (new MFF).

**DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES AND HABITATS**

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES AND HABITATS	
Project name and acronym:	Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea — LIFE DREAM
<b>Species.</b>	
<p><i>Corallium rubrum</i> (Linnaeus, 1758). Annex V of the Habitats Directive; Annex III of the Barcelona Convention; Endangered (EN) for Mediterranean following The Red List of Threatened Species. The population size for the whole Mediterranean Sea is decreasing (<i>The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species</i> 2015. Downloaded on 08 November 2021).</p> <p><i>Dendrophyllia cornigera</i> (Lamarck, 1816). Appendix II of the CITES (belonging to the Order Scleractinia); Annex II of the Barcelona Convention. Endangered (EN) for Mediterranean following The Red List of Threatened Species. The population size for the whole Mediterranean Sea is decreasing (<i>The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species</i> 2015. Downloaded on 08 November 2021).</p> <p><i>Desmophyllum dianthus</i> (Esper, 1794). Appendix II of the CITES (belonging to the Order Scleractinia); Annex II of the Barcelona Convention. Endangered (EN) for Mediterranean following The Red List of Threatened Species. The population size for the whole Mediterranean Sea is decreasing (<i>The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species</i> 2015. Downloaded on 08 November 2021).</p> <p><i>Desmophyllum pertusum</i> (Linnaeus, 1758). Appendix II of the CITES (belonging to the Order Scleractinia); Annex II of the Barcelona Convention. Endangered (EN) for Mediterranean following The Red List of Threatened Species. The population size for the whole Mediterranean Sea is decreasing (<i>The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species</i> 2015. Downloaded on 08 November 2021).</p> <p><i>Eunicella cavolini</i> (Koch, 1887). Near Threatened (NT) for Mediterranean following The Red List of Threatened Species. The population size for the whole Mediterranean Sea is decreasing (<i>The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species</i> 2015. Downloaded on 08 November 2021).</p> <p><i>Leiopathes glaberrima</i> (Esper, 1792). Appendix II of the CITES; Annex II of the Barcelona Convention; Annex III of Bern Convention; Endangered (EN) for Mediterranean following The Red List of Threatened Species. The population size for the whole Mediterranean Sea is decreasing (<i>The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species</i> 2015. Downloaded on 08 November 2021).</p> <p><i>Madrepora oculata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758). Appendix II of the CITES (belonging to the Order Scleractinia); Annex II of the Barcelona Convention. Endangered (EN) for Mediterranean following The Red List of Threatened Species. The population size for the whole Mediterranean Sea is decreasing (<i>The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species</i> 2015. Downloaded on 08 November 2021).</p> <p><i>Neopycnodonte cochlear</i> (Poli, 1795). The population size and status is unknown for the Mediterranean Sea, however, it is a common finding on continental shelf between 50-150 m..</p> <p><i>Neopycnodonte zibrowii</i> Gofas, Sala &amp; Taviani, 2009. The population size and status is unknown for the Mediterranean Sea. The population size in the Dohrn Canyon is constituted by ca. 120 individuals (either juveniles) that reach a maximum of 20 ind. m<sup>-2</sup> (Taviani et al., 2019).</p> <p><i>Paramuricea clavata</i> (Risso, 1836). Vulnerable (V) for Mediterranean following The Red List of Threatened Species. The population size for the whole Mediterranean Sea is decreasing (<i>The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species</i> 2015. Downloaded on 08 November 2021).</p> <p><i>Savalia savaglia</i> (Bertoloni, 1819). Appendix II and III of Bern Convention; Annex II of the Barcelona Convention. Near Threatened (NT) for Mediterranean following The Red List of Threatened Species. The population size for the whole Mediterranean Sea is decreasing (<i>The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species</i> 2015. Downloaded on 08 November 2021).</p>	
<b>Habitats</b>	
<p>The main habitat directly targeted by the LIFE DREAM project is “Deep Reef” coded as <b>Reefs H1170</b> by the Habitats Directive. It extends, in our study areas, for ca. 2000 ha. It is subdivided into three main categories targeted by the project: Coralligenous formations, Deep Water Oyster Reefs (DWOR) and Cold Water Coral (CWC).</p> <p><b>Coralligenous formation:</b> Natura 2000 code: Reefs 1170. <b>PA3.</b> In the project area of the Seco de los Olivos, Coralligenous formations extend between 60 and 150 m water depths. Human footprint is evident in the Seco de los Olivos coralligenous formations where several entangled longlines and lost/abandoned fishing nets have been recorded entangling branching organisms. Despite the relatively high anthropogenic impact, the conservation status is good. <b>PA4.</b> The Coralligenous formation targeted by the LIFE DREAM Project is located in the National Marine Park of Alonissos Northern Sporades at ca. 30 m water depths. This shallow site is defined as a pilot area in the Project and will be crucial for testing the replicability of the area-based measures in a different environment. The main anthropogenic pressures on this habitat are related to fishing activities, mainly</p>	

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small-scale fishing (artisanal and recreational), whilst trawling is officially prohibited within the Marine Park. For these reasons, the status of this shallow coralligenous can be considered good.

**Deep Water Oyster Reef (DWOR):** Natura 2000 code: Reefs 1170. **PA1.** In the project area of the Monopoli shelf, DWOR (characterized by *Neopycnodonte cochlear*) extends for ca. 13000 ha between 80 and 110 m water depths. No relevant anthropic impact has been evidenced in the area thus far (Angeletti and Taviani, 2020) and the conservation status might be considered good/pristine. **PA2.** In the project area of the Dohrn Canyon, DWOR (typified by *Neopycnodonte zibrowii*) are located into small areas of the vertical flanks of the canyons around 400 water depths, and shallower (best embodied by *Neopycnodonte cochlear*) around 200 m water depth (ca. 10 ha). Considering their rarity and uniqueness in the Mediterranean Sea, this site represents a site of particular ecological interest. The anthropic impact is relevant and consists mainly in ghost fishing gear and plastic objects (ca. 5.03 items 100 m<sup>-1</sup>) (Taviani et al., 2019) in the deeper site, while the shallower site is characterized almost exclusively by fishing gear, mainly longlines (ca. 30 items 100 m<sup>-1</sup>).

**Cold Water Corals (CWC) reef:** Natura 2000 code: Reefs 1170. **PA1.** In the project area of the Bari Canyon, it extends for ca. 4000 ha between 200 and 700 m water depths. The conservation status in the project area is near pristine, with colonies healthy and lush and a high biodiversity level. The anthropic impact is limited and constituted by a few lost fishing gears (some dozens of longlines) and rare plastic objects (Angeletti et al., 2021). **PA2.** In the project area of the Dohrn Canyon, it extends for ca. 300 ha between 300 and 500 m water depths. Here, despite the quite high biodiversity (n=64 species), their conservation status is relatively poor, in fact, colonies are patchily distributed, especially on overhangs and vertical flanks, rarely exceeding 20 cm in height. The anthropic impact is relevant and characterized mainly by lost longlines and plastic objects (ca. 1.6 objects 100 m<sup>-1</sup> and 3.5 objects 100 m<sup>-1</sup>, respectively: Taviani et al., 2019).

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	15.04.2021	Initial version (new MFF).

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## DESCRIPTION OF SITES

DESCRIPTION OF SITES			
Project name and acronym:	Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea — LIFE DREAM		
Name of the project area:	LIFE DREAM Project Area 1 (PA1) - Monopoli shelf and Bari Canyon		
Surface area (ha):	166035,00 ha		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">SAC</td> <td> <b>IT9120009 "Posidonieto San Vito - Barletta"</b>            Established as SAC by the Italian MATTM through the DM 21/03/2018 (G.U.82 of 09/04/2018) and targeting the <i>Posidonia oceanica</i>, it extends for 65 km along the coast and covers an area of 12459 km<sup>2</sup>.         </td> </tr> </table>	SAC	<b>IT9120009 "Posidonieto San Vito - Barletta"</b> Established as SAC by the Italian MATTM through the DM 21/03/2018 (G.U.82 of 09/04/2018) and targeting the <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> , it extends for 65 km along the coast and covers an area of 12459 km <sup>2</sup> .
SAC	<b>IT9120009 "Posidonieto San Vito - Barletta"</b> Established as SAC by the Italian MATTM through the DM 21/03/2018 (G.U.82 of 09/04/2018) and targeting the <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> , it extends for 65 km along the coast and covers an area of 12459 km <sup>2</sup> .		
Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):	<p>1 <b>Fishery Restricted Area</b> (FRA) has been recently approved in the Bari Canyon area (at the 44th session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) held in November 2021). The Bari Canyon FRA will be divided into two zones. In the "Zone A" any professional or recreational fishing activity shall be prohibited; in the "Zone B" fishing activities with towed nets, bottom set nets and recreational shall be prohibited, while fishing activities with set longlines and traps may be allowed provided under possession of a specific authorization.</p> <p>1 <b>Zona di Tutela Biologica</b> (ZTB) off Molfetta on the NW boundary of the PA, established by the Italian Ministry for Agricultural and Fisheries (MIPAAF) between 100 and 200 m depth, with the aim to regulate fishery activities. In the ZTB, professional fishery with gillnets and longlines is forbidden every year from 1st January to the 30th June; while the recreational fishery is allowed with a maximum of 5 hooks per fisherman.</p>		
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b>			
PA1 is located on the continental shelf and margin of the Region of Apulia (Italy, South Adriatic Sea) and extends between ca. 2 and 24 Nautical Miles (NM) from the coast. Main uses are fisheries (both artisanal and professional) for 80% and maritime transportation which accounts in total ca. 20%. Fishing activities (trawling and longlining) are mainly in territorial waters (12NM).			
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b>			
<p>The heterogeneity of the seafloor, together with the associated benthic fauna, supports a complex trophic network that enhances biodiversity attracting large predators, some of which are under some protection measures, such as moray eels, forkbeards and large groupers.</p> <p>The intermediate-water oyster reefs host a high biodiversity level (Taviani et al., 2012; Angeletti and Taviani, 2020). The grypheid oyster <i>N. cochlear</i> is the main bioconstructor, associated with demosponges, annelids and cnidarians. Large erected sponges are the most evident benthic fauna comprehending several species under protection directives. In particular, <i>Spongia officinalis</i>, <i>Spongia lamella</i>, <i>Axinella polypoides</i>, <i>Axinella cannabina</i>, <i>Tethya aurantium</i> are included in the Barcelona Convention RAC/SPA and ASPIM Annex II. However, the most common sponge is the arborescent <i>Ulosa digitata</i>. Other relevant benthic fauna is represented by hydroids (mostly cf. <i>Halecium</i> sp. and cf. <i>Sertularella</i> sp.) and other cnidarians such as the cup-coral <i>Caryophyllia</i> sp. and the Mediterranean sea-fingers <i>Alcyonium palmatum</i>.</p> <p>The CWC reefs of the Bari Canyon represent a hotspot of biodiversity. <i>Madrepora oculata</i> represents the major framework-forming species, with the contribution of <i>Desmophyllum pertusum</i>, <i>Dendrophyllia cornigera</i>, and the solitary <i>Desmophyllum dianthus</i> and <i>Stenocyathus vermiformis</i> (Freiwald et al., 2009; Angeletti et al., 2014; Taviani et al., 2016). Other relevant occurrences are the large fan-shaped sponges <i>Poecillastra compressa</i> and <i>Pachastrella monilifera</i>. The intimate association between the polychaete <i>Serpula vermicularis</i> and <i>M. oculata</i> results in a strengthening of cnidarian frameworks and represents a case in point in the Mediterranean CWC habitats (Sanfilippo et al., 2013). A study of mollusc fauna from the Bari Canyon led to at least 55 species being identified, from typical epibathyal mollusc communities (Panetta et al., 2013).</p> <p>The Bari Canyon has significant conservation value by hosting various Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME), being also an Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and a Sensitive Habitat (SH) (FAO, 2016; Capezzuto et al., 2018; Angeletti et al., 2021). The large area exploited by healthy CWCs makes the Bari Canyon habitat "essentially structurally and</p>			

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functionally intact and able to support all dependent species” and is in a very good “status of conservation” (sensu Ward, 2011).

The following habitats are VME indicator taxonomic groups (sensu <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/technical-meetings/detail/en/c/885358/>):

- Cold-water coral reefs
- Deep-sea sponge aggregations
  - Hard-bottom sponge gardens
- Other dense emergent fauna

Among the Mediterranean, those are the relevant VME Indicator Taxa for the Bari Canyon:

- Anthozoa: Hexacorallia (Scleractinia)
- Porifera: Demospongiae and Hexactinellidae

These taxonomic groups concur to create the DR targeted by the LIFE DREAM Project and will be further investigated during the Preparatory Actions to provide more detailed and updated description of the habitat to support and plan Conservation Actions.



Figure PA1.1. Deep water oyster reef at ca. -100 m at the Monopoli shelf, mainly embodied by *Neopycnodonte cochlear*.

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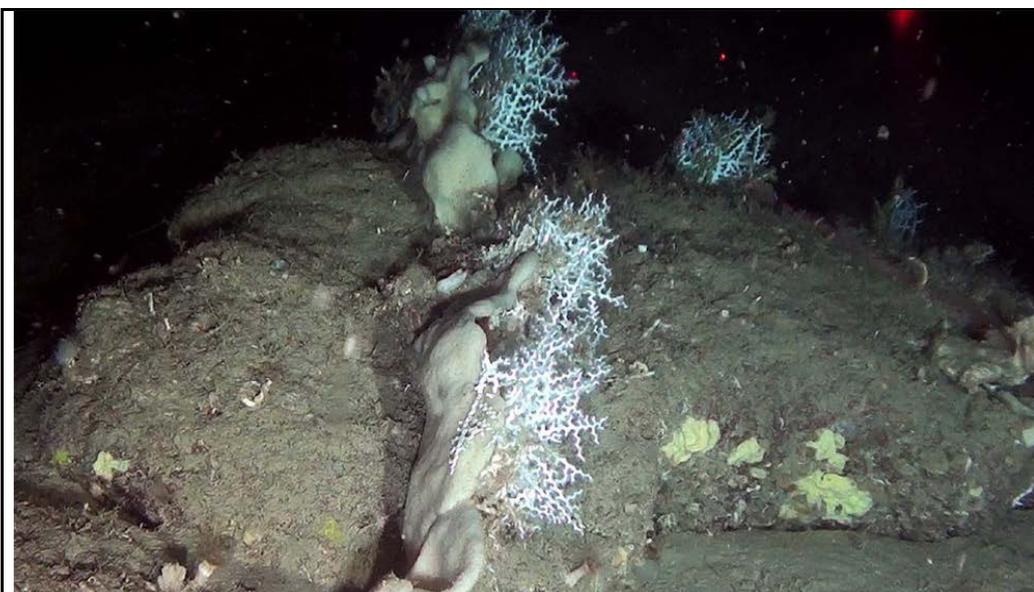


Figure PA1.2. Cold Water Corals at the Bari Canyon here is characterized by the scleractinian coral *Madrepora oculata* and by the large fan-shaped sponge *Poecillastra compressa*.

Species	Barcelona Convention	Bern Convention	CITES	GFCM priority species	Habitat Directive	IUCN Red List of threatened species	SPAMI	VME indicator taxa
<i>Axinella polypoides</i>	Annex II	Annex II					Annex II	
<i>Centrophorus granulosus</i>	Annex III					CR		
<i>Cerianthus membranaceus</i>						LC		
<i>Chimaera monstrosa</i>						NT		
<i>Dalatias licha</i>						VU		
<i>Dendrophyllia comigera</i>						EN		indicator taxa
<i>Desmophyllum dianthus</i>						EN		indicator taxa
<i>Desmophyllum pertusum</i>	Annex II					EN	Annex II	indicator taxa
<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>						LC		
<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>						NT		
<i>Leiopathes glaberrima</i>	Annex II		Annex II			EN	Annex II	indicator taxa
<i>Madrepora oculata</i>	Annex II					EN	Annex II	indicator taxa
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>				priority species		VU		
<i>Mullus barbatus</i>				priority species		LC		
<i>Pachastrella monilifera</i>								indicator taxa
<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>				priority species		LC		
<i>Phycis phycis</i>						LC		
<i>Poecillastra compressa</i>								indicator taxa
<i>Polyprion americanus</i>						DD		
<i>Stenella caeruleoalba</i>	Annex II	Annex II			Annex IV	VU	Annex II	
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Annex II	Annex II				VU	Annex II	

Figure PA1.3. List of species, in alphabetical order, included in international and national directives documented in PA1 thus far. Barcelona Convention: Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean; Bern Convention: Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats; CITES: Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species; GFCM priority species: List of priority commercial species for the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean; Habitat Directive: Council Directive 92/43/EEC; SPAMI: Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance; VME: Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems. Categories and Criteria of species included in the IUCN Red List refer to Mediterranean regional level assessment or to Global level when the Mediterranean assessment was missing. DD: Data Deficient; LC: Least Concern; NT: Near Threatened; VU: Vulnerable; EN: Endangered; CR: Critically Endangered.

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 Panetta et al., 2013, Biologia Marina Mediterranea 20:1, 148-149.  
 Sanfilippo et al., 2013, Facies 59, 663-677.  
 Taviani et al., 2012, Journal of Cave and Karst Studies 74:2, 197-212.  
 Taviani et al., 2016, Marine Geology 375, 146160.  
 Ward, 2011. SOE 2011 National marine condition assessment—decision model and workshops. Report.

DESCRIPTION OF SITES	
Project name and acronym:	Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea — LIFE DREAM
Name of the project area:	LIFE DREAM Project Area 2 (PA2) - Dohrn Canyon
Surface area (ha):	100070,00 ha
EU protection status (if applicable)	<b>SAC</b> <b>IT8030010</b> - Fondali marini di Ischia, Procida e Vivara Established by the Italian MATTM through the DM 27/11/2019 (G.U. 290 of 11-12-2019).
	<b>SPA</b> <b>IT8030010</b> - Fondali marini di Ischia, Procida e Vivara Established by the Region of Campania through the D.G.R. n. 2203 of 03/12/2004.
	<b>SAC</b> <b>IT8030041</b> - Fondali Marini di Gaiola e Nisida Proposed as a SCI by the Region of Campania in 2011 and established as SAC by the Italian MATTM through the DM 27/11/2019 (G.U. 290 of 11/12/2019).
	<b>SAC</b> <b>IT8030040</b> - Fondali Marini di Baia Established as SCI in 2011 and as SAC by the Italian MATTM through the DM 27/11/2019 (G.U. 290 of 11-12-2019).
	<b>SAC</b> <b>IT8030011</b> - Fondali marini di Punta Campanella e Capri Established by the Italian MATTM through the DM 21/05/2019 - G.U. 129 del 04-06-2019.
	<b>SPA</b> <b>IT8030011</b> - Fondali marini di Punta Campanella e Capri Established by the Region of Campania through the D.G.R. n. 2203 of 03/12/2004.
Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):	<p>2 <b>Zone di Tutela Biologica (ZTB)</b> established by the Italian MIPAAF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Area Penisola Sorrentina" - DM MIPAAF 22/01/2009; DM MIPAAF 20/05/2011; Management Plan (ex art.24 del Reg. (CE) n.1198/2006) – GSA 10 Central-Southern Tyrrhenian Sea. There, professional fishery with gillnets, longlines, fish trap and purse seines is allowed. Recreational fishery is allowed with a maximum of 5 hooks per fisher. Trawling fishery is forbidden;</li> <li>- "Banco di Santa Croce" - DM MIPAAF 22/01/2009. There, all kinds of fishery are forbidden;</li> </ul> <p>4 <b>Marine Protected Sites</b> established by the Italian MATTM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MPA "Parco Sommerso di Baia" - established by the Italian MATTM, Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities (MiBACT), Ministry of Infrastructures and Transports (MIT) and Region of Campania through the DI</li> </ul>

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	<p>07/08/2002;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MPA "Parco Sommerso di Gaiola" - established by the Italian MATTM, MiBACT, MIT and Region of Campania through the DI 07/08/2002</li> <li>- MPA "Regno di Nettuno" - established by the Italian MATTM through DM 27/12/2007 and regulated with a management plan (ex art. 28, comma 5, L. 31/12/1982, N. 979)</li> <li>- MPA "Punta Campanella" - established by the Italian MATTM through the DM 12/12/97 (G.U. 47), then modified through the DM 13/06/2000 (GU della Repubblica Italiana n. 195). The MPA is regulated through a Regulation of Implementation and Organization (G.U. 195 of 21/08/2010).</li> </ul>
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b>	
<p>Project Area 2 (PA2) is located in the Region of Campania (Italy, Tyrrhenian Sea) and coincides with the Gulf of Naples. The Gulf is one of the most important hubs in the Mediterranean Sea (Buonocore et al., 2020) characterized by intense commercial activity. The main uses are fisheries (trawling and longlining) for 70% and maritime transportation for ca. 30%. The campanian fleet consists of ca. 1000 ships, 85% of which used for artisanal fishery operating within the 6 NM (source: Mipaaf - National Programme of Alieutic Data Collection).</p>	
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b>	
<p>The Dohrn Canyon is of particular oceanographic and ecological interest as it represents an element of potential connectivity with other CWC populations of the basin. The Gulf of Naples indeed is peripheral, but still on the pathway of the LIW, which is hypothesized to control the distribution of major CWC grounds in the Mediterranean basin (e.g., Taviani et al., 2016, 2017, 2019b). The Dohrn Canyon is a highly diverse CWC site of the eastern Tyrrhenian Sea, for which the available information confirmed the occurrence of living specimens of <i>M. oculata</i>, <i>Desmophyllum pertusum</i> and <i>D. dianthus</i>, but never the contextual presence of <i>Neopycnodonte zibrowii</i> and <i>Acesta excavata</i> except in the case of subfossil Pleistocene records. This CWC-bivalve co-occurrence represents a novel biotope for the Mediterranean Sea, which coexists with the impact of severe anthropogenic threats, such as illegal dumping and fishery that were visually documented by ROV surveys (Taviani et al., 2019b).</p> <p>The shelf/upper slope of the Dohrn Canyon is characterized by rocky shoals emerging from an almost flat muddy bottom. <i>Neopycnodonte cochlear</i> forms concretions and bioconstructions up to 2 m high providing architectural complexity and sheltering for diverse associated biota. The hard substrate hosts "Marine Animal Forests" (MAF) dominated by eco-engineering sessile benthic organisms which creates essential habitat for several marine species and supports benthic biodiversity (e.g. Cau et al., 2017). <i>Leiopathes glaberrima</i> and the other habitat-forming species characterizing the site are affected by relevant human induced impacts mainly represented by direct and indirect effects of fishing activities (unpublished data). The epibenthic megafauna here is dominated by <i>Leiopathes glaberrima</i>, which forms extensive forests, recognized as endangered by IUCN and classified by the FAO-GFCM as an indicator of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME). In addition, <i>L. glaberrima</i> is listed also in the Annex II of the SPA/BD protocol of the Barcelona Convention. Despite considered as a hotspot of biodiversity and key ecological processes, the current network of Marine Protected Areas does not include this site.</p> <p>It would be important to call for the preservation of these unique deep-sea habitats by adopting protection measures from bottom contact fishing and other sources of impact. This goal could be partially achieved by granting to the Dohrn Canyon the status of Site of Community Importance (SCI) within the European Commission Habitats Directive, and by starting action to establish a deep-sea Marine Protected Area in this Mediterranean area.</p> <p>The following habitats are VME indicator taxonomic groups (<i>sensu</i> <a href="http://www.fao.org/gfcm/technical-meetings/detail/en/c/885358/">http://www.fao.org/gfcm/technical-meetings/detail/en/c/885358/</a>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cold-water coral reefs</li> <li>● Oyster reefs and other giant bivalves</li> <li>● Other dense emergent fauna</li> </ul> <p>Among the Mediterranean, those are the relevant VME Indicator Taxa for the Dohrn Canyon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Anthozoa: Hexacorallia (Scleractinia)</li> </ul>	

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Figure PA2.1. A) Deep water oyster reef best embodied by *Neopycnodonte zibrowii* at ca. 450 m, and B) Cold Water Corals characterized by a healthy and lush colony of *Desmophyllum pertusum* at ca. 420 m water depth.

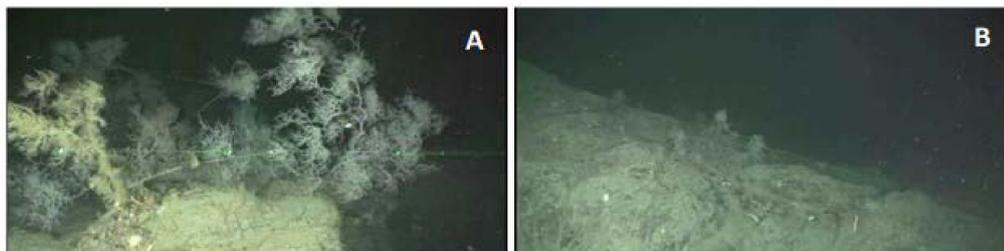


Figure PA2.2 A) Longline stretching between several colonies of *L. glaberrima* at ca. 200 m, and B) Longlines and ghost nets entangled on a black coral assemblage at ca. 195 m water depth.

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Species	Barcelona Convention	Bern Convention	CITES	GFCM	Habitat Directive	IUCN Red List threatened species	SPAMI	VME indicator taxa
<i>Amphianthus dohrnii</i>	Annex II					DD		
<i>Antipathella subpinnata</i>	Annex II	Annex II				NT	Annex II	
<i>Antipathes dichotoma</i>	Annex II	Annex II				NT	Annex II	
<i>Aplysina cavernicola</i>		Annex III					Annex III	
<i>Bellottia apoda</i>						LC		
<i>Calliactis parasitica</i>						LC		
<i>Caryophyllia calveri</i>			Annex II			DD		
<i>Coelorinchus caelorrhincus</i>						LC		
<i>Corallium rubrum</i>	Annex II	Annex III			Annex IV	EN	Annex III	
<i>Dendrophyllia cornigera</i>			Annex III			EN		indicator taxa
<i>Desmophyllum dianthus</i>						EN		indicator taxa
<i>Desmophyllum pertusum</i>	Annex II					EN	Annex II	indicator taxa
<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>						NT		
<i>Hoplostethus mediterraneus</i>						LC		
<i>Javania cailleti</i>						DD		
<i>Leiopathes glaberrima</i>	Annex II		Annex II			EN	Annex II	indicator taxa
<i>Lepidopus caudatus</i>						LC		
<i>Madrepora oculata</i>	Annex II					EN	Annex II	indicator taxa
<i>Pachastrella monilifera</i>								indicator taxa
<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>				priority species		LC		
<i>Palinurus elephans</i>		Annex II				VU		
<i>Parantipathes larix</i>	Annex II					NT	Annex II	
<i>Phycis blennooides</i>						LC		
<i>Poecillastra compressa</i>								indicator taxa
<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i>						LC		
<i>Spicaa manea</i>						LC		
<i>Stenocyathus vermiformis</i>						DD		
<i>Zeus faber</i>						DD		

Figure PA2.3. List of species, in alphabetical order, included in international and national directives documented in PA 2 thus far. Barcelona Convention: Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean; Bern Convention: Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats; Bonn Convention: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; CITES: Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species; Habitat Directive: Council Directive 92/43/EEC; GFCM priority species: List of priority commercial species for the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean; SPAMI: Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance; VME: Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems. Categories and Criteria of species included in the IUCN Red List refer to Mediterranean regional level assessment or to Global level when the Mediterranean assessment was missing. DD: Data Deficient; LC: Least Concern; NT: Near Threatened; EN: Endangered.

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DESCRIPTION OF SITES			
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea — LIFE DREAM		
<b>Name of the project area:</b>	LIFE DREAM Project Area 3 (PA3) - Seco de los Olivos Seamount		
<b>Surface area (ha):</b>	329410,00 ha		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>SAC</b></td> <td> <p><b>ESZZ16003</b> "Sur de Almería-Seco de los Olivos"</p> <p>Established by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (MITECO) in 2014. In 2009, the EU "LIFE+ INDEMARES" Project (LIFE07 NAT/E/000732), co-funded by the EU and the "Biodiversity Foundation" - MITECO, characterized and quantified the benthic ecosystems included in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/CEE) of 10 Spanish marine areas of high ecological value, aiming to include them in the N2K framework. Among them, the area "Sur de Almería-Seco de los Olivos" has been declared as Site of Community Importance - SCI (ESZZ1600) and is formally included as a SAC in the EU N2K list of marine areas (BOE, 2014). The LIFE IP INTEMARES Project, focused on improving protection and monitoring actions on marine areas included in the N2K list, is the on-going continuation of LIFE+ INDEMARES and will bring to the development of a definitive management plan for the SO. Currently, nature conservation measures are applied to maritime and air transit, but not to fishing activities, until a definitive management plan will be created for the area.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<b>SAC</b>	<p><b>ESZZ16003</b> "Sur de Almería-Seco de los Olivos"</p> <p>Established by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (MITECO) in 2014. In 2009, the EU "LIFE+ INDEMARES" Project (LIFE07 NAT/E/000732), co-funded by the EU and the "Biodiversity Foundation" - MITECO, characterized and quantified the benthic ecosystems included in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/CEE) of 10 Spanish marine areas of high ecological value, aiming to include them in the N2K framework. Among them, the area "Sur de Almería-Seco de los Olivos" has been declared as Site of Community Importance - SCI (ESZZ1600) and is formally included as a SAC in the EU N2K list of marine areas (BOE, 2014). The LIFE IP INTEMARES Project, focused on improving protection and monitoring actions on marine areas included in the N2K list, is the on-going continuation of LIFE+ INDEMARES and will bring to the development of a definitive management plan for the SO. Currently, nature conservation measures are applied to maritime and air transit, but not to fishing activities, until a definitive management plan will be created for the area.</p>
<b>SAC</b>	<p><b>ESZZ16003</b> "Sur de Almería-Seco de los Olivos"</p> <p>Established by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment (MITECO) in 2014. In 2009, the EU "LIFE+ INDEMARES" Project (LIFE07 NAT/E/000732), co-funded by the EU and the "Biodiversity Foundation" - MITECO, characterized and quantified the benthic ecosystems included in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/CEE) of 10 Spanish marine areas of high ecological value, aiming to include them in the N2K framework. Among them, the area "Sur de Almería-Seco de los Olivos" has been declared as Site of Community Importance - SCI (ESZZ1600) and is formally included as a SAC in the EU N2K list of marine areas (BOE, 2014). The LIFE IP INTEMARES Project, focused on improving protection and monitoring actions on marine areas included in the N2K list, is the on-going continuation of LIFE+ INDEMARES and will bring to the development of a definitive management plan for the SO. Currently, nature conservation measures are applied to maritime and air transit, but not to fishing activities, until a definitive management plan will be created for the area.</p>		
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>			
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b>			
<p>Seco de los Olivos (SO) is located within the Spanish National waters, and is 100% owned by the Spanish Government, which declared this volcanic bank and its surroundings as a Site of Community Importance, including it in the list of Spanish EU Natura 2000 marine areas (SCI ESZZ16003).</p> <p>The human activities that mostly affect the integrity of the living natural resources in the SO correspond to industrial and artisanal fishery. Mainly owing to its highly productive waters and to its proximity to the mainland, the SO has been targeted by the fishing community for decades (see B2d for further details), making 100% use of this area. Being declared as a SCI, nature conservation measures are actually applied to maritime and air transit, but not to fishing activities, until a definitive management plan will be created for the area.</p>			
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b>			
<p>The EU and the WWF have already recognized the Alboran Sea as a potential host for marine reserves. Before the SAC "Sur de Almería - Seco de los Olivos" was instituted, three marine regions of the Alboran Sea were already included under the Barcelona Convention in the List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Natural Park of Cabo de Gata-Níjar, with a surface of 49.547 ha and 35 nm far from the SO,</li> <li>- the Natural Park of the Island of Alboran and underwater surroundings, 26.457 ha,</li> <li>- the Natural Park of Acanitlados de Maro Cerro-Gordo, 1.815 ha.</li> </ul> <p>This basin represents a crucial area for ocean ecosystems due to the presence of vulnerable deep corals on seamounts and is a migratory route for threatened species of fish and whales and a feeding zone for juveniles and sub-adults, the majority of which originate from Atlantic populations. The "Sur de Almería and Seco de los Olivos" is a EU Natura 2000 Site of Community Importance (SIC ESZZ16003) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which includes two vulnerable marine ecosystems undergoing persistent pressures: <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> meadows (Habitat Directive code 1120 - Annex I) and Reefs (Habitat Directive code 1170 - Annex I). Finally, some seabird species migrating between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, find here an important feeding area. Most common species, having Atlantic or Mediterranean origin, are: <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>, <i>Larus audouinii</i>, <i>Pardela cenicienta</i>, <i>Morus bassanus</i>, <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> (De la Torre et al., 2014).</p>			

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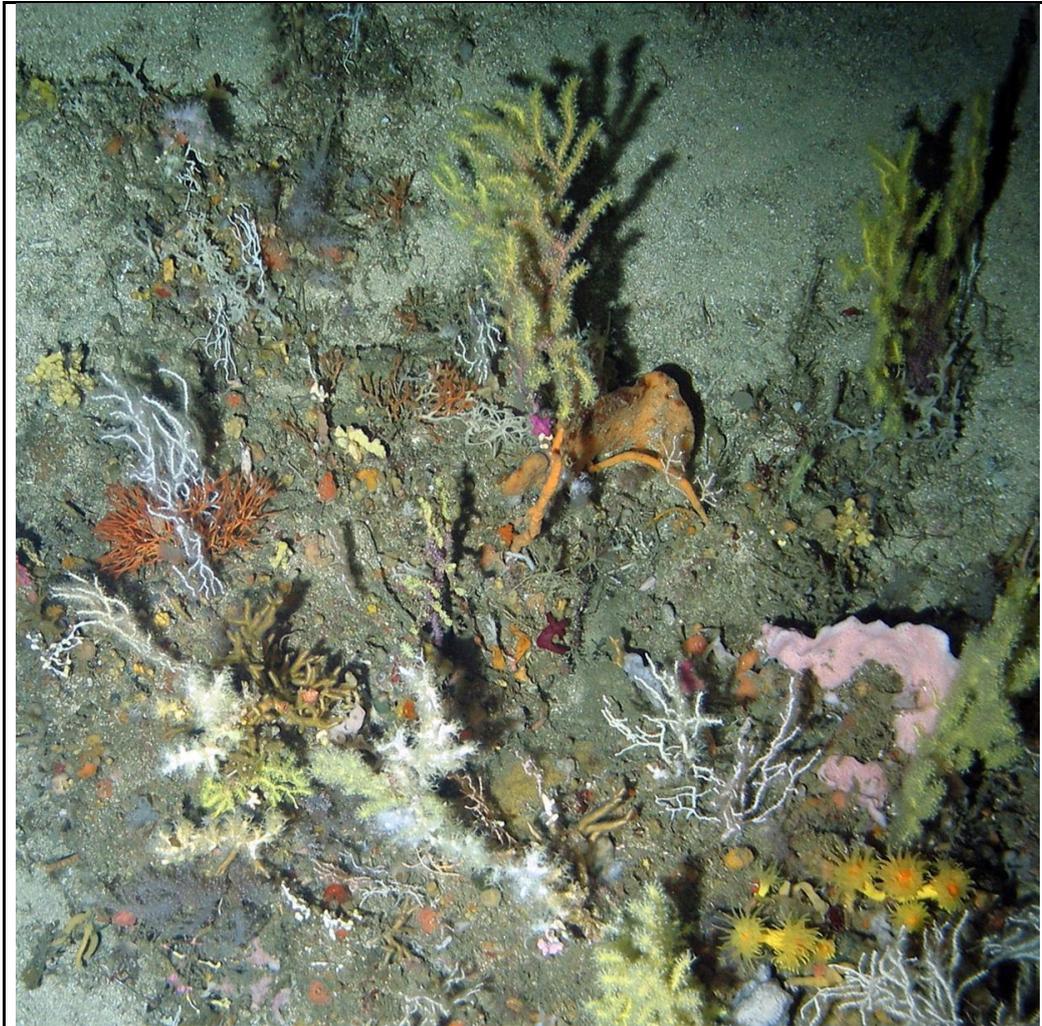


Figure PA3.1. Deep Reef characterized by Coralligenous formations at Seco de los Olivos site. Note the high biodiversity level of cnidarian species among which several are under threat such as *Savalia savaglia* and *Dendrophyllia cornigera*.

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Species	Barcelona Convention	Bern Convention	Bonn Convention	CITES	GFCM priority species	Habitat Directive	IUCN Red List of threatened species	SPAMI	National Laws	VME indicator taxa
<i>Antipathella subpinnata</i>	Annex II	Annex III					NT	Annex II		
<i>Antipathes dichotoma</i>	Annex II	Annex III					NT	Annex II		
<i>Aplysina aerophoba</i>	Annex II						regional	Annex II		
<i>Asbestopluma hypogaea</i>	Annex II							Annex II		
<i>Axinella polypoides</i>	Annex II						regional			
<i>Babelomurex exariniiferus</i>							regional			
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Annex II	Annex II and III				Annex IV	LC			
<i>Callogorgia verticillata</i>							NT	Annex II		
<i>Calyx nicaeensis</i>							regional			
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Annex II	Annex II	Annex I			Annex I and II	LC			
<i>Centrophorus granulosus</i>	Annex III						CR			
<i>Centrostephanus longispinus</i>	Annex II	Annex II				Annex IV	regional		law 42/2007	
<i>Charonia lampas</i>	Annex II	Annex II				Annex IV	regional			
<i>Corallium rubrum</i>	Annex II	Annex III					EN and regional		law 42/2007	
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Annex II	Annex II	Annex I			Annex IV	EN and regional		law 42/2007	
<i>Dendrophyllia comigera</i>							EN			
<i>Dendrophyllia ramea</i>							VU and regional			
<i>Ellisella paraplexauroides</i>	Annex II						VU and regional			
<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>							NT and regional			
<i>Geodia cydonium</i>	Annex II							Annex II		
<i>Globicephala melas</i>	Annex II	Annex II				Annex IV	DD		law 42/2007	
<i>Hacelia attenuata</i>							regional			
<i>Halocynthia papillosa</i>							regional			
<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>										
<i>Leiopathes glaberrima</i>	Annex II			Annex II			EN	Annex II		indicator taxa
<i>Leptogorgia samentosa</i>	Annex II						LC	Annex II		
<i>Desmophyllum pertusum</i>	Annex II						EN	Annex II		indicator taxa
<i>Madrepora oculata</i>	Annex II						EN and regional	Annex II		indicator taxa
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>					priority species		VU			
<i>Mitra zonata</i>	Annex II	Annex II					regional			
<i>Oxynotus centrina</i>	Annex II						CR			
<i>Palinurus elephas</i>		Annex II					VU and regional			
<i>Paramuricea clavata</i>	Annex II						VU			
<i>Parantipathes larix</i>							NT and regional	Annex II		
<i>Pentapora facialis</i>							regional			
<i>Pantatosmilia anthophyllite</i>	Annex II						DD			
<i>Ranella olearium</i>	Annex II	Annex II					regional			
<i>Savalia savaglia</i>	Annex II	Annex II					NT and regional	Annex II		
<i>Scyllarus arctus</i>	Annex II						LC and regional			
<i>Spongia agaricina</i>		Annex II	Annex II				regional			
<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	Annex II	Annex II				Annex IV	VU			
<i>Tethya aurantium</i>	Annex II		Annex II				regional	Annex II		
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Annex II	Annex II				Annex I and II	VU		law 42/2007	
<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Annex II						LC	Annex II		
<i>Zonaria pyrum</i>	Annex II						regional	Annex II		

Figure PA3.2 List of species, in alphabetical order, included in international and national directives documented in PA 3 thus far. Barcelona Convention: Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean; Bern Convention: Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats; Bonn Convention: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; CITES: Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species; GFCM priority species: List of priority commercial species for the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean; Habitat Directive: Council Directive 92/43/EEC; SPAMI: Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance; VME: Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems. Categories and Criteria of species included in the IUCN Red List refer to Mediterranean regional level assessment or to Global level when the Mediterranean assessment was missing. DD: Data Deficient; LC: Least Concern; NT: Near Threatened; VU: Vulnerable; EN: Endangered; CR: Critically Endangered; regional: regional Andalusia Red list of threatened species.

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#### References

De la Torriente et al., 2014, Proyecto LIFE+ INDEMARES. Fundación Biodiversidad del Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, 1-102.

DESCRIPTION OF SITES	
Project name and acronym:	Deep REef restoration And litter removal in the Mediterranean sea — LIFE DREAM
Name of the project area:	LIFE DREAM Project Area 4 (PA4) - The National Marine Park of Alonissos Northern Sporades (NMPANS)
Surface area (ha):	231280,00 ha
EU protection status (if applicable)	SCI
	SAC
	<b>GR1430004</b> - Ethniko Thalassio Parko Alonnisou – Voreion sporadon, Anatoliki Skopelos Established in 2011 through Law 3937/29-3-11 (OJ 60 A).
	SPA
Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):	<b>1 National Marine Park:</b> the NMPANS was officially established in 1992, it covers a total surface area of 250,000 ha and is currently the largest marine protected area in the Mediterranean Sea. The Island of Piperi, which forms the core area of the NMPANS, and which constitutes the only no-access, no-take area of the marine park, is protected by the <b>Barcelona Convention</b> . Although these conservation measures address the Mediterranean monk seal ( <i>Monachus monachus</i> ) and not directly the DR, those benefit indirectly from these spatial control measures, because trawl fishery is totally forbidden in the park boundaries.
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b>	
The NMPANS is located in the Region of Thessaly (Greece, Aegean Sea). Agriculture, cattle-raising (mainly on uninhabited isles) and fishing (artisanal and recreational) are the main human activities in the area (ca. 80%). Tourism is growing in recent years, but maritime traffic is rather limited, except during the summer months when recreational boating increases considerably (ca. 20%). Human activities within NMPANS are regulated according to a complex zoning system which comprises 2 main protection zones. The core of Zone A is the small islet of Piperi, which is the only no-take and no-access area of the NMPANS, open only for scientific, administrative and maintenance purposes. Zone B is the most populated area of the park, where human activities are being regulated to a different extent. A detailed description of the existing restrictions can be found in the guide issued by the NMPANS Management Body ( <a href="http://alonissos-park.gr/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ENG-HD-.pdf">http://alonissos-park.gr/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ENG-HD-.pdf</a> )	
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b>	
Coralligenous formations (H1170) refer to biogenic structures primarily build by encrusting calcareous Rhodophyta (coralline algae) and host a large number of animal species, such as sponges, bryozoans, and various cnidarians (including both scleractinian corals and gorgonian forests). Within the NMPANS, coralligenous formations present an extensive distribution. They can be found on all rocky substrates below 30 m, and even at shallower depths (Sini et al. 2017). The presence of some important cnidarian species have been recorded (Anastasopoulou and Fortibuoni, 2019, Sini et al. 2017), including <i>Eunicella cavolini</i> , <i>Eunicella singularis</i> , <i>Callogorgia verticillata</i> and <i>Savalia savaglia</i> , <i>Paramuricea clavata</i> , and the Endangered <i>Cladocora caespitosa</i> and <i>Corallium rubrum</i> (Vafidis et al. 1997; Anastasopoulou and Fortibuoni, 2019). Other endemic, rare and/or commercially important species, which have been recorded in the NMPANS and may also be found on coralligenous formations, include the echinoderm <i>Centrostephanus longispinus</i> , and the sponges <i>Coscinoderma sporadense</i> , <i>Hemiasterella aristoteliana</i> , <i>Hippospongia communis</i> , <i>Ircinia paucifilamentosa</i> , and <i>Spongia officinalis</i> (Sini et al. 2017, Gerovasileiou et al. 2018). With regards to the endangered red coral ( <i>Corallium rubrum</i> ), which has historically been commercially exploited at a Mediterranean level, its past and present distribution in the Greek Seas remains largely incomplete (Dounas et al.,	

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2009). However, the species has been recorded in the area of NMPANS, notwithstanding a depletion of its populations in shallow waters (Dounas et al., 2009, Vafidis et al. 1997). Occurrence of several vulnerable taxa is evident across all groups of VME indicators, indicative of the high biodiversity interest of this area. For example, there are also several elasmobranch species, such as the *Near Threatened Dipturus oxyrinchus*, the *Vulnerable Dalatias licha*, which may use coralligenous formations and other deep water habitats for reproduction and feeding. The LIFE DREAM project will build upon available information in order to fill gaps regarding the spatial distribution and health status of DR, as well as other associated ecological features within the NMPANS (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA. 2008; Sini et al., 2017). ML has been documented in the area in both shallow and deep areas (results obtained respectively from the INTERREG Med project *AMAre* and ROV observations (Anastasopoulou and Fortibuoni, 2019), but there is no mapping of the seafloor litter hitherto. This is the first attempt to obtain such data. Information gathered in the frame of LIFE DREAM will provide significant input that can be used in assessments conducted for the implementation of the MSFD and may be used for paving the way towards achieving GES in the Mediterranean Sea.

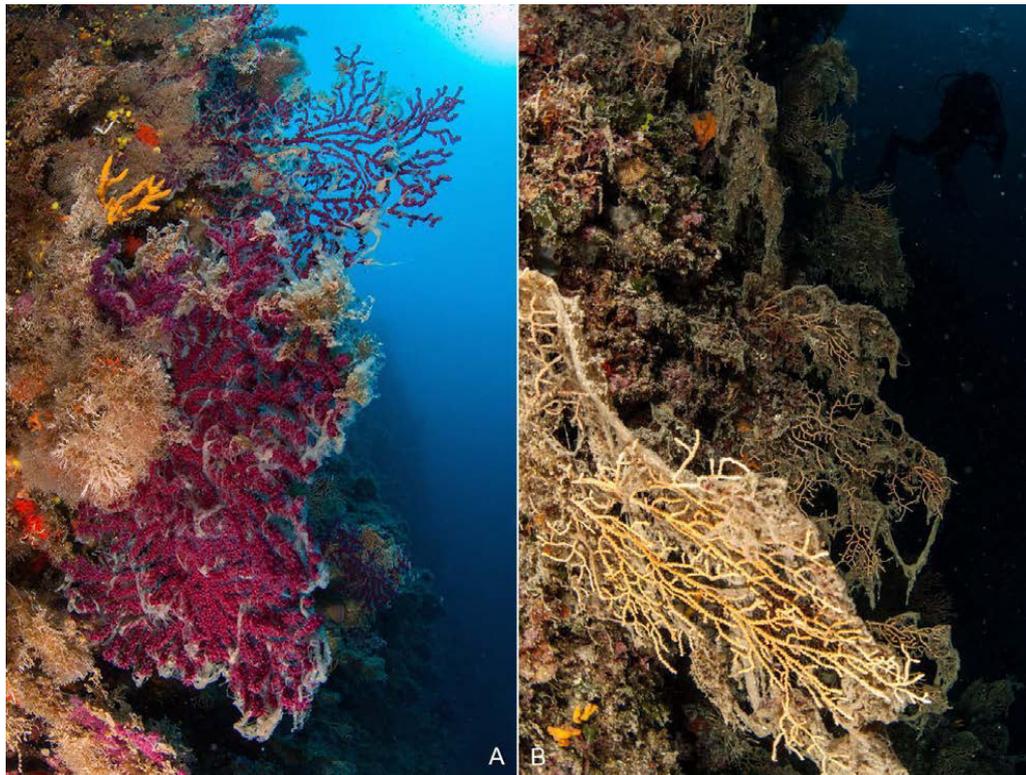


Figure PA4.1 Coralligenous formations, Gorgonian communities at the Alonissos NMPANS: A) Facies of *Paramuricea clavata* and B) Facies of *Eunicella cavolini*. Both are considered under several lists of protection. Note also the mucilaginous coverage in some specimens.

Species	Barcelona Convention	Bern Convention	Bonn Convention	CITES	GFCM priority species	Habitat Directive	IUCN Red List of threatened species	SPAMI	VME indicator taxa
<i>Axinella cannobina</i>	Annex II							Annex II	
<i>Axinella polyopakes</i>	Annex II	Annex II						Annex II	
<i>Boops boops</i>							LC		
<i>Callinectes verticillata</i>							NT	Annex II	
<i>Centrostephanus longispinus</i>	Annex II	Annex II				Annex IV			
<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Annex II						EN	Annex II	
<i>Cladocora caspilosa</i>	Annex II			Annex II			EN	Annex II	
<i>Corallium rubrum</i>						Annex IV	EN	Annex II	
<i>Coscinoderma sporadense</i>									
<i>Dalatias licha</i>							VU		
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Annex II	Annex II	Annex I			Annex IV	EN		
<i>Dentex dentex</i>							VU		
<i>Desmophyllum dianthus</i>							EN		VME indicator taxa
<i>Dipturus oxyrinchus</i>							NT		
<i>Epinaphelus costae</i>							DD		
<i>Epinaphelus marginatus</i>	Annex II and III	Annex III					EN	Annex II	
<i>Eunicella cavolini</i>							NT		
<i>Eunicella singularis</i>							NT		
<i>Grampus griseus</i>	Annex II	Annex II	Annex II	Annex II		Annex IV	DD	Annex II	
<i>Hemasterella ansoteliana</i>									
<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>							NT		
<i>Hippospongia communis</i>		Annex III						Annex II	
<i>Ircinia pauciflamentosa</i>									
<i>Lithothamnion lithophilago</i>	Annex II	Annex II		Annex II		Annex IV		Annex II	
<i>Loligo vulgaris</i>							DD		
<i>Meluccius mentuccius</i>					GFCM priority species		VU		
<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>							LC		
<i>Oblada melanura</i>							LC		
<i>Ophiodon elongatus</i>	Annex II	Annex II						Annex II	
<i>Pagrus pagrus</i>							LC		
<i>Pallene elephas</i>		Annex III							
<i>Paramuricea clavata</i>							VU		
<i>Pinna nobilis</i>	Annex II					Annex IV	CR	Annex II	
<i>Sarcoragrus foetidus</i>	Annex II							Annex II	
<i>Savalia savaglia</i>	Annex II	Annex II					NT	Annex II	
<i>Scorpaena scrofa</i>							LC		
<i>Spondyliasma cantharus</i>							LC		
<i>Spongia officinalis</i>		Annex III							
<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	Annex II	Annex II	Annex II	Annex II		Annex IV	VU	Annex II	
<i>Tethys aurantium</i>	Annex II							Annex II	
<i>Tethys aurantium</i>	Annex II							Annex II	
<i>Tetraselmus nobiliana</i>							LC		
<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>							LC		
<i>Tonna galica</i>	Annex II	Annex II						Annex II	
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Annex II	Annex I and II	Annex II	Annex II		Annex II and IV	VU	Annex II	
<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	Annex II	Annex II		Annex II		Annex IV	DD	Annex II	

Figure PA4.2. List of species, in alphabetical order, included in international and national directives documented in PA 4 thus far. Barcelona Convention: Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean; Bern Convention: Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats; Bonn Convention: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; CITES: Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species; GFCM priority species: List of priority commercial species for the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean; Habitat Directive: Council Directive 92/43/EEC; SPAMI: Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance; VME: Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems. Categories and Criteria of species included in the IUCN Red List refer to Mediterranean regional level assessment or to Global level when the Mediterranean assessment was missing. DD: Data Deficient; LC: Least Concern; NT: Near Threatened; VU: Vulnerable; EN: Endangered; CR: Critically Endangered.

**References**

Anastasopoulou and Fortibuoni, 2019, in (eds Stock, Reifferscheid, Brennholt, and Kostianaia) Handbook of Environmental Chemistry, (Springer: Cham), 1-12.  
 Dounas et al., 2009, in (eds Bussoletti, Cottingham, Bruckner, Roberts and Sandulli) NOAA Technical Memorandum CRCP-13 (NOAA: Silver Spring).  
 Gerovasileiou et al., 2018, Mediterranean Marine Science 19:3, 526-537.  
 Sini et al., 2017, Frontiers Marine Science 4, 347.  
 UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA, 2008 in (eds Pergent-Martini and Bricet) Action plan for the conservation of the coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions in the Mediterranean Sea (RAC/SPA: Tunis).  
 Vafidis et al., 1997, Israel Journal of Ecology and Evolution 43:1, 55-70.

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HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	15.04.2021	Initial version (new MFF).

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**LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

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Detailed Budget Table									
LIFE DREAM									
<p><b>Important:</b> You may add rows but no additional tabs. This may result in your proposal being considered inadmissible. Please ensure that the file can be printed on a format of 1 page wide (number of pages depending on the number of participants). Please make sure that the figures in this table are consistent with the total budget provided in part A section 3 of the application. In case of inconsistencies, part A will prevail.</p>									
<p><b>Staff effort allocation</b> Fill in the effort per work package and Beneficiary/Affiliated Entity. Please indicate the number of person-months over the whole duration of the planned work. Adapt the columns to the number of work packages in your proposal. Identify the work-package leader for each work package by showing the relevant person-month figure in bold.</p>									
Participant Number/Short Name	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	WP7	Total	
1. CNR	14	21	28	28	21	14	14	140	
2. UNIBA	3	7	10	16	10	10	10	66	
3. HCMR	3	3	5	10	5	10	16	52	
4. NeIEC	1	19	0	0	0	0	0	20	
5. ENALEIA	3	14	0	0	34	7	10	68	
6. UNIVPM	7	20	4	24	0	30	4	89	
7. CSIC	5	14	18	14	14	17	10	92	
8. UNINA	2	3	5	5	3	10	3	31	
9. RoA	1	1	0	3	1	1	1	8	
10. RoT	1	4	0	4	1	4	7	21	
11. SZN	4	8	12	22	0	16	18	80	
12. FEDERPESCA	2	8	0	0	15	3	3	31	
13. OPP71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
14. UNIRO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total person-months</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>698</b>	
<p><b>Personnel costs</b> Present your estimated "Personnel costs" split into 3 categories as per the table below. If you do not have any personnel costs falling under "A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries" or "A.5 Volunteers", all personnel costs should be budgeted under "A1. Employees (or equivalent), A2. Natural persons under direct contract and A3. Seconded Persons". For A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries: please note that as per Annex 2a of the LIFE General Model Grant Agreement (MGA), a unit cost is applied to this cost category. The units are the days spent working on the action (rounded up to the nearest half-day) and the amount per unit (daily rate) is calculated according to the following formula: (EUR 5 080 / 18 days = EUR 282.22 per day) multiplied by (country-specific correction coefficient of the country where the beneficiary is established). Note that the country specific correction coefficient to use is the one applied for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA). Yearly rates are published in the Horizon Europe Work Programme – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions under the funding and tender portal Reference Documents (work programme and call documents section), available at <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portals/scene/how-to-participate/reference-documents-program-code=HORIZON">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portals/scene/how-to-participate/reference-documents-program-code=HORIZON</a>. For A.5 Volunteer Costs: a unit cost is also applied to this cost category. The units are the days spent working on the action (rounded up to the nearest half-day) and the amount per unit (daily rate) is a country</p>									
Participant Number/Short Name	Country	Number of person months (staff effort per beneficiary)	Average monthly salary rate	A1. Employees (or equivalent); A2. Natural persons under direct contract and A3. Seconded Persons (costs)	A.4 SME owners and natural person (sole trader) beneficiaries (Unit costs in €)	Subtotal personnel costs without volunteers (A1+A2+A3+A4) - must be the same as in part A section 3	A.5 Volunteers (Unit costs) must be the same as in part A section 3	Total Personnel costs	
1. CNR	IT	140	5,195 €	727,330 €		727,330 €		727,330 €	
2. UNIBA	IT	66	5,065 €	334,273 €		334,273 €		334,273 €	
3. HCMR	EL	52	4,829 €	251,132 €		251,132 €		251,132 €	
4. NeIEC	IT	20	6,380 €	127,800 €		127,800 €		127,800 €	
5. ENALEIA	EL	68	2,263 €	147,641 €		147,641 €	6,240 €	153,881 €	
6. UNIVPM	IT	89	3,945 €	351,130 €		351,130 €		351,130 €	
7. CSIC	ES	92	5,630 €	511,680 €		511,680 €	6,240 €	517,920 €	
8. UNINA	IT	31	4,360 €	135,161 €		135,161 €		135,161 €	
9. RoA	IT	8	2,126 €	17,010 €		17,010 €		17,010 €	
10. RoT	EL	21	3,477 €	73,010 €		73,010 €		73,010 €	
11. SZN	IT	80	4,665 €	373,172 €		373,172 €		373,172 €	
12. FEDERPESCA	IT	31	6,495 €	185,900 €		185,900 €	15,458 €	201,358 €	
13. OPP71	ES	0	#DIV/0!			0 €		0 €	
14. UNIRO	IT	0	#DIV/0!			0 €		0 €	
<b>Total</b>		<b>698</b>		<b>3,235,239 €</b>	<b>0 €</b>	<b>3,235,239 €</b>	<b>27,938 €</b>	<b>3,263,177 €</b>	
<p><b>Subcontracting</b> Give details on subcontracted action tasks (if any) and explain the reasons why (as opposed to direct implementation by the participants). Subcontracting — Subcontracting means the implementation of action tasks, i.e. specific tasks which are part of the action and are described in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement. Note: Subcontracting concerns the outsourcing of a part of the action to a party outside the Consortium. It is not simply about purchasing goods or services. We normally expect the participants to have sufficient operational capacity to implement the project activities themselves. Sub-contracting should therefore be exceptional. (Include only subcontracts that comply with the rules (i.e. best value for money and no conflict of interest; coordinator tasks can normally not be subcontracted).</p>									
Participant Number/Short Name	Subcontract Description	Cost (€)	WP	Justification (Why is subcontracting necessary?)					
1. CNR	Implementation of a portable low temperature pyrolysis Prototype for the recycle of marine litter (traction plastic) and the production of marine fuel for fishes	180,000 €	5	The subcontracting is necessary because none of the participants has the technological know-how for producing this waste treatment plants fundamental for the project success					
1. CNR	Draft of a business model for the replication of the low temperature pyrolysis Prototype and the circular economy experiment	20,000 €	7	The subcontracting is necessary because none of the participants has the competences for drafting the business model					
5. ENALEIA	ENALEIA will subcontract the costs/benefits analysis of fishing gears Life Cycle for the task T.5.3 "Responsible waste management practice (fishing gear supply chain)"	50,000 €	5	The subcontracting is necessary in order to cover ENALEIA's lack of expertise in conducting scientific research on the task. The subcontractor will conduct a socioeconomic analysis into the scope of the fishing gear supply chain, by implementing Cost-Benefit estimations on the problem, utilizing research and scientific tools					
<b>Total estimated costs</b>		<b>250,000 €</b>							
If subcontracting for the entire project goes beyond 30% of the total eligible costs, give specific reasons.									
n/a									
<p><b>Other direct costs</b> Please complete the table below for each participant. If required add further tables at the end of this work sheet (one per participant). Please ensure that the information provided is sufficient to assess the relevance of the costs in relation to the activities proposed. For major cost items add lines below, in order to provide a detailed breakdown within one cost category. For major items listed in the justification column, indicate the work package / task to which they belong. For equipment and infrastructure, please explain if the cost represents the full cost or the depreciation.</p>									
1/CNR	Cost (€)	Justification							

Travel & subsistence	9,432€	5 progress meetings for 2 persons per 2 days (including kick off meeting) + 1 final conference for 4 persons per 2 days (in Italy) (WP1)
	10,632€	2 travels for 2 oceanographic cruises in Italian PAs for 4 persons + 1 travel for 1 oceanographic cruises in Spain for 2 persons (WP3+WP4)
	8,984€	3 workshops for Prototype training for 2 persons per 2 days (2 in Italy and 2 inside EU) (WP5)
	8,984€	4 awareness meetings for 2 persons per 2 days (2 in Italy and 2 inside EU) (WP2)
	528€	1 business modal meeting for 1 person per 2 days (in Italy) (WP7)
	1,118€	1 Joint meeting for networking with other LIFE projects for 1 person per 2 days (in Bruxelles) (WP2)
	2,104€	3 scientific conferences for 1 person for 2 days (1 Italy and 2 inside EU) (WP2)
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	- €	
Other goods, works and services	68,000€	Expenses related to the usage of the prototype: Prototype transport; carbon footprint assessment; request of environmental permits, fuel; fabrica license; waste oil analysis (WP5)
	11,500€	Consumables for the Prototype: reactants for pyrolysis, scrubbing material oil filtration media, testing material, emission sampling vials (WP5)
	10,000€	Audit (WP1)
	4,000€	Catering for the organization of 2 progress meetings (WP1)
	3,500€	Dissemination: conference fees for participation to scientific and divulgative events, dissemination material (e.g. gadgets, prints), publication on open access paper (WP2)
Financial support to third parties	- €	
Land purchase	- €	
<b>Total</b>	<b>138,782 €</b>	
<b>2UNIBA</b>		
	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	9,480€	5 progress meetings for 2 persons per 2 days (including kick off meeting) + 1 final conference for 3 persons per 2 days (in Italy) (WP1)
	2,112€	2 workshops for Prototype training for 2 persons per 2 days (in Italy) (WP5)
	1,056€	2 awareness meetings for 2 persons per 2 days (in Italy) (WP2)
	4,896€	1 travel for awareness meeting in school/museum x 2 persons x 1 day (WP2)
	1,118€	1 Joint meeting for networking with other LIFE projects for 1 person per 2 days (in Bruxelles) (WP2)
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	2,104€	3 scientific conferences for 1 person for 2 days (1 Italy and 2 inside EU) (WP2)
Other goods, works and services	35,000€	3 underwater cameras for DIR monitoring in the Bari canyon and in the Monopoli shelf (WP6) - Full cost
	150,000€	ROV rental and operations in the Bari Canyon and in the Monopoli shelf for 1 cruise of ca. 14 days (WP3+WP4) and 2 cruises of 3 days for the maintenance of the DSOS (WP6)
	4,500€	Dissemination: conference fees for participation to scientific and divulgative events, dissemination material (e.g. gadgets, prints), publication on open access paper (WP2)
	2,000€	Catering for 1 progress meeting (WP1)
Financial support to third parties	- €	
Land purchase	- €	
<b>Total</b>	<b>212,266 €</b>	
<b>3JCMR</b>		
	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	14,805€	5 progress meetings for 2 persons per 3 days (including kick off meeting) + 1 final conference for 3 persons per 3 days (in Italy) (WP1)
	13,100€	3 travels for 2 oceanographic cruises in Greek PAs for 9 persons (WP3+WP4)
	4,014€	2 workshops for Prototype training for 2 persons per 2 days (2in Greece) (WP5)
	4,014€	3 awareness meetings for 2 persons per 3 days (in Greece) (WP2)
	1,308€	1 travel for dissemination (Business club) for 2 persons for 2 days (Greece) (WP7)
	12,130€	6 travels for socioeconomic interviews for 3 persons for 3 days (in Greece) (WP6)
	3,628€	1 Joint meeting for networking with other LIFE projects for 2 person per 2 days (in Bruxelles) (WP2)
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	7,584€	3 scientific conferences for 1 person for 4 days (1 inside EU, 1 national, 1 outside EU) (WP2)
Other goods, works and services	1,200€	HOBO Water Temperature Package for MNPAS pilot area (WP6+WP7) - Full cost
	8,500€	Computer high performance, hard drives for storing ROVs videos (hard disks, USB keys), laptop for the demands of the project (WP3+WP4) - Full cost
	73,500€	ROV rental and operations in the MNPANS (at about 100 m) PAs of ca. 10 days (WP3+WP4) and 2 cruises of 3 days for the maintenance of the DSOS (WP6)
	5,500€	Dissemination: conference fees for participation to scientific and educational events, dissemination material (e.g. gadgets, prints), publication on open access paper (WP2)
	1,000€	Training and didactic material (e.g. pen drives, prints) (WP2)
	2,500€	Catering for 1 progress meeting (WP1)
	6,000€	MARS transport (WP4)
	6,000€	Prototype transport (WP5)
	40,000€	Printing of MARS (WP4)
	1,000€	Consumables for laboratory (such as biological sample management) and field activities (WP3)
Financial support to third parties	- €	
Land purchase	- €	
<b>Total</b>	<b>205,671 €</b>	
<b>4NetEC</b>		
	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	4,424€	5 progress meetings for 1 persons per 2 days (including kick off meeting) + 1 final conference for 2 persons per 1 day (in Italy) (WP1)
	5,280€	5 awareness meetings for 2 persons per 1 day (in Italy) (WP2)
	528€	1 travel for dissemination (Business club) for 1 persons per 1 day (WP2)
	1,118€	1 Joint meeting for networking with other LIFE projects for 1 person per 2 days (in Bruxelles) (WP2)
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	- €	
Other goods, works and services	15,000€	Realization of the project logo and the coordinated material + website creation (incl. content editing in three languages) (WP2)
	20,000€	Website and WebApp implementation for the monitoring of the Prototype (WP2)
	7,500€	5 year hosting and website maintenance services (WP2)
Financial support to third parties	6,000€	Venue and services for 2 joined meetings in Bruxelles WP2)
Land purchase	- €	
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,850 €</b>	
<b>5ENALEIA</b>		
	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	11,150€	5 progress meetings for 1 person per 2 days (including kick off meeting) (WP1)
	1,342€	1 awareness meeting for 2 persons per 1 day (in Greece) (WP2)
	482€	1 travel for Business club for 1 person per 1 day (WP7)
	2,684€	2 workshops with fishermen for 2 persons per 3 days (in Greece) (WP6)
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	2,684€	2 meetings in the fishermen ports to foster the fishing for litter activities for 2 persons per 3 days (in Greece) (WP5)
Other goods, works and services	5,368€	4 meetings for the involvement of fishermen for removing litter by fishing for 2 persons per 3 days (in Greece) (WP5)
	2,000€	Purchase or printing of dissemination (e.g. gadget, prints), training, and didactic materials (WP2)
	10,000€	Rent of container for marine litter storage (WP5)
	6,000€	Rent of warehouses for marine litter storage (WP5)
	14,000€	Marine litter transport from the containers (at ports) to the warehouses (WP5)
Financial support to third parties	15,000€	Ecofriendly burlap sacks to stock onboard the marine litter collected by the fishermen (WP5)
Land purchase	1,500€	Cost for translation (WP2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,210 €</b>	
<b>6UNIVPM</b>		
	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	7,320€	5 progress meetings for 1 person per 2 days (including kick off meeting) (WP1)
	2,104€	2 scientific conferences per 2 persons per 2 days (inside EU) (WP2)
	2,104€	2 travels for MARS concept, design and printing (WP4)
	3,000€	Participation to MARS deployment survey (2 surveys, Bari and Napoli canyons for one person each) (WP4)
	6,000€	Participation to camera maintenance survey (2 surveys for Bari and Napoli canyons for 1 person for 2 days for a total of 4 surveys) (6.000 EUR) (WP6)
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	2,104€	Travel for 3 events organization (WP2)
Other goods, works and services	8,500€	Software for image analysis (1 license) and software for statistical analysis (2 licenses) (WP6) - Full cost
	2,000€	Equipment for working onboard (shoes etc. for 2 persons) (WP4)
	4,000€	Dissemination: conference fees for participation to scientific and educational events, publication on open access paper (WP2)
Financial support to third parties	15,000€	Material for 5 media communication campaigns (4 typology of gadgets, as example, cotton bags, t-shirts, caps, re-usable water bottle, informative leaflet to be diffused during events), N. 200 for each type of gadgets and 500 leaflets for each event (WP2)

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Other goods, works and services	8,000€	Consumables and gadgets for training and didactic materials (informative posters, gadgets as t-shirts and caps), N. 200 (corresponding to 8 school classes) for each type of gadgets and 10 posters for each event. 5 events are foreseen, 1 each project year (WP2)
	15,000€	Support for dissemination and outreach - production of informative publication, education program and networking with other LIFE and EU-funded related projects (WP2)
	15,000€	MARS conceptualisation (WP4)
	40,000€	Printing of the MARS (WP4)
	10,000€	MARS transport (WP4)
Financial support to third parties	- €	
Land purchase	- €	
<b>Total</b>	<b>140,132 €</b>	
<b>7/CSIC</b>	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	10,794€	5 progress meetings for 2 persons per 2 days (including kick off meeting) + 1 final conference for 2 persons per 3 days (in Italy) (WP1)
	3,312€	1 travel for 1 oceanographic cruise in Spanish PA for 4 persons (WP3-WP4)
	4,148€	1 workshop for Prototype training for 2 persons per 2 days (in Spain) + 1 awareness meeting for 2 persons per 2 days (in Spain) (WP5)
	3,738€	1 travel for awareness meeting in school/museum for 2 persons per 1 day (WP2)
	920€	1 Joint meeting for networking with other LIFE projects for 1 person per 2 days (in Bruxelles) (WP2)
	3,129€	3 scientific conferences for 1 person per 3 days (1 Italy and 2 inside EU) (WP2)
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	25,000€	2 underwater cameras for DR monitoring in the Spanish PA (WP6)
	3,000€	1 laptop + 1 monitor for data processing (WP3-WP4)
Other goods, works and services	6,000€	Prototype transport (WP5)
	40,000€	MARS printing (WP4)
	6,000€	MARS transport (WP4)
	4,000€	Dissemination: conference fees for participation to scientific and educational events, dissemination material (e.g. gadgets, prints), publication on access paper (WP2)
	4,000€	Communication: post-cards, photo exhibition, videos (WP2)
	2,500€	Catering for 1 progress meeting (WP1)
Financial support to third parties	- €	
Land purchase	- €	
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,541 €</b>	
<b>8/UNINA</b>	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	8,688€	5 progress meetings for 2 persons per 2 days (including kick off meeting) + 1 final conference for 3 persons per 2 days (in Italy) (WP1)
	2,176€	2 workshops for Prototype training for 2 persons per 2 days (in Italy) (WP5)
	2,176€	2 awareness meetings for 2 persons per 2 days (in Italy) (WP2)
	4,896€	1 travel for awareness meeting in school/museum for 2 persons per 1 day (WP2)
	1,118€	1 Joint meeting for networking with other LIFE projects for 1 person per 2 days (in Bruxelles) (WP2)
	2,104€	3 scientific conferences for 1 person per 2 days (1 Italy and 2 inside EU) (WP2)
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	35,000€	3 underwater cameras for DR monitoring in the Bari canyon and in the Monopoli shelf (WP6)
	4,000€	Dissemination: conference fees for participation to scientific and educational events, dissemination material (e.g. gadgets, prints), publication on access paper (WP2)
Other goods, works and services	500€	Training and didactic material (e.g. pen drives, prints) (WP2+WP5)
	2,500€	Catering for the final conference (WP1)
Financial support to third parties	- €	
Land purchase	- €	
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,158 €</b>	
<b>9/RoA</b>	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	8,952€	5 progress meetings for 2 persons per 2 days (including kick off meeting) + 1 final conference for 2 persons per 2 days (in Italy) (WP1)
	2,112€	2 workshops for Prototype training for 2 persons per 2 days (in Italy) (WP5)
	2,112€	2 awareness meetings for 2 persons per 2 days (in Italy) (WP2)
	1,056€	1 meeting for the business model (WP7)
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	- €	
Other goods, works and services	2,000€	Dissemination material (e.g. gadgets, prints) (WP2)
	2,000€	Training and didactic material (e.g. pen drives, prints) (WP2)
Financial support to third parties	- €	
Land purchase	- €	
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,232 €</b>	
<b>10/RoT</b>	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	5,538€	5 progress meetings for 1 person per 2 days (including kick off meeting) + 1 final conference for 1 person per 2 days (in Italy) (WP1)
	964€	2 workshops for Prototype training for 1 person per 2 days (in Italy) (WP5)
	964€	2 awareness meetings for 1 person per 2 days (in Italy) (WP2)
	482€	1 business model meeting for 1 person per 2 days (in Italy) (WP7)
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	43,000€	NOUS: a prototype innovative system that can monitor continuously (24/7) an underwater area of interest (WP7)
	2,000€	Dissemination material (e.g. gadgets, prints) (WP2)
Other goods, works and services	40,000€	Print of the MARS (WP7)
	4,000€	Transportation of MARS (WP7)
Financial support to third parties	- €	
Land purchase	- €	
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,948 €</b>	
<b>11/SZN</b>	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	8,688€	5 progress meetings for 2 persons per 2 days (including kick off meeting) + 1 final conference for 3 persons per 2 days (in Italy) (WP1)
	1,056€	1 travel for 1 oceanographic cruise, boarding from Bari (PA1) for 2 persons (WP4)
	2,176€	2 workshops for Prototype training for 2 persons per 2 days (in Italy) (WP5)
	2,176€	2 awareness meetings for 2 persons per 2 days (in Italy) (WP2)
	1,118€	1 Joint meeting for networking with other LIFE projects for 1 person per 2 days (in Bruxelles) (WP2)
	2,104€	3 scientific conferences for 1 person per 2 days (1 Italy and 2 inside EU) (WP2)
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	50,000€	Equipment for the improvement of the ROV capability in marine litter removal (WP4)
	150,000€	ROV rental for the operations in the Dohrn Canyon for 1 cruise of ca. 14 days (WP3+WP4) and 2 cruises of 3 days for the maintenance of the DSOS (WP6)
Other goods, works and services	15,000€	Consumables for laboratory (such as biological sample management) and field activities (WP3+WP4)
	10,000€	Dissemination: conference fees for participation to scientific and educational events, dissemination material (e.g. gadgets, prints), publication on access paper (WP2)
Financial support to third parties	- €	
Land purchase	- €	
<b>Total</b>	<b>242,318 €</b>	
<b>12/FEDERESCA</b>	<b>Cost (€)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Travel & subsistence	3,896€	5 progress meetings for 1 person per 2 days (including kick off meeting) + 1 final conference for 1 person per 2 days (in Italy) (WP1)
	3,168€	3 workshops for Prototype training for 2 persons per 2 days (in Italy) (WP5)
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	29,700€	Jute bag for waste disposal for the recovery of marine litter during the fishing activities (220 days, 15 vessels, 3 bags per day = 1.980 bags per 15 Europe each) (WP5)
	40,000€	Waste reception and storage in each Italian port (Proceda, Salerno, Ischia, Bari, Monopoli) as requested by the Directive 2019/883/UE on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships (WP5)
Other goods, works and services	6,000€	Prototype transportation (WP5)
Financial support to third parties	- €	
Land purchase	- €	
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,764 €</b>	

<b>Proposal Info</b>		 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022	
<b>Proposal ID</b> SEP-210792819	<b>Call for Proposal</b> LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT	<b>Topic</b> LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-NATURE	<b>Type of Action</b> LIFE-PJG

## LIFE Programme – Application Forms (Part C – KPI)

Horizontal KPIs for all LIFE applicants (Mandatory to report on all the KPIs of this section).

<p><b>Innovation</b></p> <p>Is your project proposal developing, demonstrating and promoting innovative techniques and approaches?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><b>Governance</b></p> <p>Is your project proposal improving governance through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><b>Plans &amp; strategies</b></p> <p>Is your project proposal implementing key plans or strategies?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><b>Catalytic effect - Financial</b></p> <p>Will your project trigger additional investments?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><b>Catalytic effect - Spatial</b></p> <p>Will the results of your project be replicated beyond its intended geographical scope?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><b>Catalytic effect - Thematic</b></p> <p>Will the results of your project be replicated (transferred) beyond its intended thematic scope?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><b>Catalytic effect - Societal</b></p> <p>Will your project :</p> <p>a) Contribute to the development of new or existing national legislation, policies, regulations, incentives and voluntary commitments?</p> <p>b) Achieve a step-change in more effective compliance with and enforcement of Union environmental and climate legislation and/or in policy implementation?</p> <p>c) Achieve a step-change in awareness and support of environmental and climate matters?</p> <p>d) Establish a new macroregional or national model of cooperation (networking)?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><b>Rio markers for climate, biodiversity and air quality</b></p> <p>Please indicate if your proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has climate change/ biodiversity/ air quality as their primary objective</li> <li>• Has climate change/ biodiversity/ air quality as their secondary objective and provide substantial contributions to these objectives</li> <li>• Does not contribute significantly to climate change/ biodiversity/ air quality</li> </ul> <p><b>Climate change</b> Secondary Objective</p> <p><b>Biodiversity</b> Primary Objective</p> <p><b>Air quality</b> Not contributing</p>	

### LIFE Programme - Context selection

<p>Please select the EU Member State(s) or/and Associated Countries (if any) or/and potential Associated Countries (if any) that best describe the geographical context of your project proposal, i.e. the area(s) of work or/and area(s) of impact.</p> <p>Please select the type of country you wish to add</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> EU Member States <input type="radio"/> Associated Countries</p>
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To Be Associated Countries  Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022

Italy(IT)

**Please select the EU Member State(s) or/and Associated Countries (if any) or/and potential Associated Countries (if any) that best describe the geographical context of your project proposal, i.e. the area(s) of work or/and area(s) of impact.**

**Please select the type of country you wish to add**

EU Member States  
 Associated Countries  
 To Be Associated Countries

Spain(ES)

**Please select the EU Member State(s) or/and Associated Countries (if any) or/and potential Associated Countries (if any) that best describe the geographical context of your project proposal, i.e. the area(s) of work or/and area(s) of impact.**

**Please select the type of country you wish to add**

EU Member States  
 Associated Countries  
 To Be Associated Countries

Greece(EL)

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**If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.**

<b>EU Country</b>	<b>Typology</b>
Greece	SCI: Sites of Community Importance

**Natura 2000 sites**

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**If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.**

<b>EU Country</b>	<b>Typology</b>
Spain	

**Natura 2000 sites**

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**If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.**

<b>EU Country</b>	<b>Typology</b>
Italy	

**Natura 2000 sites**

**LIFE Programme - Annex II - Section 2 - Specific KPIs - (Please report on KPIs you consider relevant).**

**Please select the relevant indicators for your project. For each selected indicator please provide any required values and comments. Please note that if you deselect an indicator, all values entered will be lost.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Water efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/> Water quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Waste management
<input type="checkbox"/> Resource efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy savings	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewable energy
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals (environment)	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals (humans)
<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (habitats)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (number of Species)	<input type="checkbox"/> GHG emissions	<input type="checkbox"/> GHG sequestration
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate vulnerability (humans)	<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (Invasive Alien Species)	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other project specific KPIs	<input type="checkbox"/> C2M projects	<input type="checkbox"/> Investments and Financing
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate area vulnerability reduction		

**Biodiversity (habitats)**

**Area of habitats where loss of biodiversity is being halted and reversed**

The start-value is pre-set to 0. In the end-value please provide an estimate of the area of habitats where loss of biodiversity is being halted and reversed due to your project, at project-end. The end-value is expected to be higher than the start-value, demonstrating an increase in the area positively affected, due to the project actions. Please also provide the estimated number, 3/5 years after the project-end, to demonstrate if further area of habitats will be positively affected. Please also provide relevant comments (e.g. 3 most relevant habitats addressed , their areas, etc)..

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
0	0.09	0.09	km2

**Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.**

Within the Project, passive restoration activities (ML removal) will be performed by means of Remotely-Operated Vehicles (ROV) in correspondence of Deep Reefs habitats (Coralligenous formations, Deep Water Oyster Reefs, and Cold Water Corals ecosystems). Considering at least 6 ROV transects (600 m of length x 6 m width) for each Sites (13 considering all PAs), the total area interested by passive restoration activities will be ca. 9 ha (600 m \* 6m \* 2 transects \* 13 Sites).

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**Biodiversity (number of Species)**

**Number of species whose population loss is being halted and reversed**

The start-value is pre-set to 0. In the end-value please provide an estimate of the number of species whose population loss is being halted and reversed due to your project, at project-end. The end-value is expected to be higher than the start-value, demonstrating an increase in the number of species positively affected, due to the project actions. Please also provide the estimated number, 3/5 years after the project-end, to demonstrate if further species will be positively affected. Please also provide relevant comments (e.g. 3 most relevant species addressed, their populations, ranges/areas, etc).

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
0	11	11	Number of species

**Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.**

The area-based restoration measures of the LIFE DREAM Project will improve the status of 11 threatened and/or under protection species characterizing DR, more specifically: Eunicella cavolini, Paramuricea clavata, Savalia savaglia, Corallium rubrum for Coralligenous formations in the pilot area (Region of Thessaly); Neopycnodonte cochlear and Neopycnodonte zibrowii, Leiopathes glaberrima for DWOR; Madrepora oculata, Desmophyllum pertusum, Desmophyllum dianthus and Dendrophyllia cornigera for CWC.

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**Other project specific KPIs**

**Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.**

**Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.**

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
0	7.5	15	cm

**Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.**

VERTICAL LINEAR EXTENSION COLONIES OF DR COLONIZING MARS - New Deep Reefs habitat expected from active restoration activities in terms of cm of coral growth. In the literature, CWCs were documented growing 1.5 cm/year. We expect colonies of ca. 7.5 cm by the end of LIFE DREAM (5 years) and of 15 cm 5 years after the end of the Project.

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**Other project specific KPIs**

**Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.**

**Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.**

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
0	10.69	10.69	col/m2

**Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.**

DENSITY OF NEW CORAL COLONIES COLONIZING MARS - Deep-sea corals have been observed colonizing artificial structures with a density ranging from 0.93 col/m2 (Desmophyllum pertusum from on-field data) to 10.69 col/m2 (CWC from aquaria experiments).

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**Other project specific KPIs**

**Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.**

**Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.**

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
0	5	5	Num. N2K site

**Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.**

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NUMBER OF NEW N2K SITE TARGETED - 2 new deep-sea Italian N2K sites (in the Bari and Doric canyons) will be proposed by the LIFE DREAM Project; 1 coastal Italian N2K site (IT9120009: Posidonieto San Vito - Barletta) will be proposed by the LIFE DREAM Project for the enlargement to deep environment; management recommendations will be proposed for 2 N2K sites currently established as SAC (ESZZ16003 and GR1430004).

**Other project specific KPIs**  
 Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.

Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
0	3,000	3,562	L of fuel

Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.

2° GENERATION FUEL PRODUCED - We expect to produce between 3,000 and 6,000 L of 2° generation fuel during the Project lifetime. ML recovery and recycling activities will continue after the Project end for 100 day/year at Procida involving 5 fishing vessels. As a result, the amount of 2° generation fuel produced by ML recycling will increase to 3562.5-7125 L 3 years after the Project end, and 3937.5-7875 L 5 years after the LIFE DREAM end.

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**Other project specific KPIs**  
 Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.

Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
0	8	10.5	Tn

Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.

MARINE LITTER RECOVERED BY FISHERS - Tons of ML recovered by fishers during the area-base prevention measures in the 4 PAs. Considering the 25 vessels directly engaged by the project operating for 320 days and that each vessel can recover ca. 1-2 kg of ML per day, we estimate to recover between 8 and 16 tons of ML during the lifespan of the LIFE DREAM Project. Since ML recovery will continue after the project end for 100 day/year at Procida involving 5 fishing vessels, the amount of ML recovered is expected to increase to 9.5-19 tons 3 years after the project end, and 10.5-21 tons 5 years after the LIFE DREAM end.

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**Other project specific KPIs**  
 Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.

Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
0	6	7.8	Tn

Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.

PLASTIC MARINE LITTER RECOVERED BY FISHERS - Tons of plastic ML recovered by fishers during the area-based prevention measures in the 4 PAs. We expect to recover at least 8 tons of ML (see MARINE LITTER RECOVERED BY FISHERS KPI). Considering 75% of ML is composed of plastic (from previous surveys in the PAs), we foresaw recovering at least 6 tons of plastic by the end of the Project and 7.8 tons 5 years after the Project end.

---

**Other project specific KPIs**  
 Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.

Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
0	1.32	1.57	Tn

Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.

CO2 AVOIDED EMISSIONS - The LIFE DREAM will produce ca. 2.64 – 5.29 tons of 2° generation fuel by the end of the Project, which will increase to 3.14 - 6.28 tons 3 years after the end of the Project and 3.47 - 6.94 tons 5 years after LIFE DREAM (see 2° GENERATION FUEL PRODUCED KPI). The usage of this 2° generation fuel by the fishers for their daily activities will avoid the consumption of traditional fuel. Considering the production of 2.64 tons of 2° generation fuel and that CO2 emissions related to the production of 2° generation fuel are 0.5 to 0.75 ton CO2 eq. per ton of fuel lower than traditional fuel, we will avoid the emissions of 1.32 - 1.98 tons of CO2 by the end of the Project. This value will increase to 1.57 -2.73 tons 5 years after the Project end.

**Other project specific KPIs**

Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box. Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022

Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
0	175	175	item

Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.

STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED - Number of questionnaires filled by stakeholders during the LIFE DREAM Project. We estimate to engage ca. 175 stakeholders on the basis of the awareness meeting and workshops planned in the 10 ports involved in the LIFE DREAM Project (see paragraph 1.4). Fishers who will recover ML in the PAs will be 144, in addition, we plan to engage at least 5 persons per port and we believe the number will increase thanks to the activities planned in the framework of WP2.

Grant Agreement number: 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

Associated with document [LEER MGAres2023-5524998-v02082022](#)

ANNEX 2

ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR THE ACTION

Forms of funding	Estimated eligible <sup>1</sup> costs (per budget category)											Estimated EU contribution <sup>2</sup>			Maximum grant amount <sup>6</sup>	
	Direct costs					Indirect costs						Total costs	Funding rate % <sup>4</sup>	Maximum EU contribution <sup>5</sup>		Requested EU contribution
	A. Personnel costs		B. Subcontracting costs		C. Purchase costs		D. Other cost categories		E. Indirect costs <sup>3</sup>		EU contribution to eligible costs					
A.1 Employees (or equivalent) A.2 Natural persons under direct contract A.3 Seconded persons	A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries	A.5 Volunteers	B.1 Travel and subsistence	C.1 Equipment	C.2 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties	D.2 Land purchase	E. Indirect costs	Flat-rate costs <sup>8</sup>	Funding rate % <sup>4</sup>	Maximum EU contribution <sup>5</sup>	Requested EU contribution	Maximum grant amount <sup>6</sup>			
a1	a3	a4	b	c1	c2	c3	d1a	d2	e = flat-rate * (a1 + a3 + a4 + c2 + c3 + d1a)	U	g = f * U%	h	m			
1 - CNR	727 330,00	0,00	0,00	210 000,00	41 782,00	0,00	97 000,00	0,00	74 627,84	60	684 443,90	684 443,90	684 443,90			
2 - UNIBA	334 273,00	0,00	0,00	20 766,00	35 000,00	156 500,00	0,00	0,00	38 257,73	60	350 878,04	350 878,03	350 878,03			
3 - HCMR	251 132,00	0,00	0,00	60 471,00	9 700,00	135 500,00	0,00	0,00	31 976,21	60	293 267,53	293 267,52	293 267,52			
4 - NetEC	127 800,00	0,00	0,00	11 350,00	0,00	48 500,00	0,00	0,00	13 135,50	60	120 471,30	120 471,30	120 471,30			
5 - ENALBAAMKE	147 641,00	0,00	6 240,00	50 000,00	23 710,00	0,00	48 500,00	0,00	18 889,57	60	176 988,34	176 988,34	176 988,34			
6 - UNIVPM	351 130,00	0,00	0,00	22 632,00	10 500,00	107 000,00	0,00	0,00	34 388,34	60	315 390,20	315 390,19	315 390,19			
7 - CSIC	511 680,00	0,00	6 240,00	26 041,00	28 000,00	62 500,00	0,00	0,00	43 975,47	60	407 061,88	407 061,88	407 061,88			
8 - UNINA	135 161,00	0,00	0,00	21 158,00	35 000,00	7 000,00	0,00	0,00	13 882,33	60	127 320,80	127 320,79	127 320,79			
9 - REGIONE PUGLIA	17 010,00	0,00	0,00	14 232,00	0,00	4 000,00	0,00	0,00	2 466,94	60	22 625,36	22 625,36	22 625,36			
10 - RoT	73 010,00	0,00	0,00	7 948,00	43 000,00	46 000,00	0,00	0,00	11 897,06	60	109 113,04	109 113,03	109 113,03			
11 - SZN	373 172,00	0,00	0,00	17 318,00	50 000,00	175 000,00	0,00	0,00	43 084,30	60	395 144,58	395 144,58	395 144,58			
12 - FEDRRPESCA	185 900,00	0,00	15 438,00	7 064,00	69 700,00	6 000,00	0,00	0,00	18 806,48	60	181 757,09	181 757,08	181 757,08			
13 - OPP71																
14 - UNIRO																
<b>Σ consortium</b>	<b>3 235 239,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>27 938,00</b>	<b>250 000,00</b>	<b>274 472,00</b>	<b>280 900,00</b>	<b>893 500,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>345 387,77</b>		<b>3 184 462,06</b>	<b>3 184 462,00</b>	<b>3 184 462,00</b>			

<sup>1</sup> See Article 6 for the eligibility conditions. All amounts must be expressed in EUR (see Article 21 for the conversion rules).

<sup>2</sup> The consortium remains free to decide on a different internal distribution of the EU funding (via the consortium agreement, see Article 7).

<sup>3</sup> Indirect costs already covered by an operating grant (received under any EU funding programme) are ineligible (see Article 6.3). Therefore, a beneficiary/affiliated entity that receives an operating grant during the action duration cannot declare indirect costs for the year(s) reporting period(s) covered by the operating grant, unless they can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any costs of the action. This requires specific accounting tools. Please immediately contact us via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal for details.

<sup>4</sup> See Data Sheet for the funding rates(s).

<sup>5</sup> This is the theoretical amount of the EU contribution to costs, if the reimbursement rate is applied to all the budgeted costs. This theoretical amount is then capped by the 'maximum grant amount'.

<sup>6</sup> The 'maximum grant amount' is the maximum grant amount decided by the EU. It normally corresponds to the requested grant, but may be lower.

<sup>7</sup> The reimbursement rate is the maximum grant amount divided by the EU. It normally corresponds to the requested grant, but may be lower.

<sup>8</sup> See Data Sheet for the flat-rate.

**ANNEX 2a****ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UNIT COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS****SME owners/natural person beneficiaries without salary** (Decision C(2020) 7115<sup>1</sup>)

Type: unit costs

Units: days spent working on the action (rounded up or down to the nearest half-day)

Amount per unit (daily rate): calculated according to the following formula:

{EUR 5 080 / 18 days = **282,22**}  
 multiplied by  
 {country-specific correction coefficient of the country where the beneficiary is established}

The country-specific correction coefficients used are those set out in the Horizon Europe Work Programme (section Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions) in force at the time of the call (see [Portal Reference Documents](#)).

**Volunteers** (Decision C(2019)2646<sup>2</sup>)

Type: unit costs

Units: days spent working on the action (rounded up or down to the nearest half-day)

Amount per unit (daily rate):

Country	Daily rate in €
Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Liechtenstein, Norway	157
Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Finland, United Kingdom, Iceland	131
Czech Republic, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia	78
Bulgaria, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia	47
Australia, Canada, Hong King, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Macao, New Zealand, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Switzerland.	92
Albania, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Dominica, Gabon, Grenada, Ivory Coast, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Mexico, Montenegro, Nigeria, Peru, Saint Kitts And Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent And the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe	45
Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El	32

<sup>1</sup> Commission [Decision](#) of 20 October 2020 authorising the use of unit costs for the personnel costs of the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary for the work carried out by themselves under an action or work programme (C(2020)7115).

<sup>2</sup> Commission [Decision](#) of 10 April 2019 authorising the use of unit costs for declaring personnel costs for the work carried out by volunteers under an action or a work programme (C(2019)2646).

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022

Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Micronesia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Senegal, South Africa, Surinam, Swaziland, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, Vanuatu	
Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Myanmar, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo – Democratic Republic of the-, Cuba, Korea (DPR), Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji Island, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Solomon, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste – Democratic Republic of, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen	17

Grant Agreement number: 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

**UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI BARI ALDO MORO (UNIBA)**, PIC 999840596, established in PIAZZA UMBERTO I 1, BARI 70121, Italy,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM** ('the Agreement')

**between** CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE (CNR) **and** the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

#### SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Stefano Bronzini with ECAS id n002zbjb signed in the Participant Portal on 02/09/2022 at 10:45:24 (transaction id SigId-37843-7Pm nAmpIiYldzV7eorvuGF1Ara1uSXSyFVNsy550psOlcxhMohOOat4b19hJLWJhdv6BDrBiDAeKwVv05j4ozn-jpJZscgsw0KR2tZlwzPRzHW-2KxgwvzIUQYUes4wopCZaEmkizudAV25E7fjU79e9Eeibl79SITokz zgjEynoraciAagl6ofiYXlpsPORziIUpp). Timestamp by third party at 2022.09.02 11:45:29 CEST

Grant Agreement number: 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

**HELLENIC CENTRE FOR MARINE RESEARCH (HCMR)**, PIC 999577532, established in LEOFOROS ATHENS SOUNIO 46 7KM, ATTIKIA ANAVISSOS 19013, Greece,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM** ('the Agreement')

**between** CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE (CNR) **and** the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

#### SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Antonios MAGOULAS with ECAS id nmagouan signed in the Participant Portal on 05/08/2022 at 11:33:23 (transaction id SigId-144308-svgsUX9LKIVAQfNze8ihLZ8hYqorUID0FzZy4hZEYHWizGDrAurrXfZnngzZ7XuzgAF5m8ytBIDBcmnPYjwyPG-yntOf97TTHq29yS3sozNII-axk6Fpeb8auW5X07RUtF4NwkxvWzzgKMN LgvtuLRI Dyja2i3AHefcKdOfMFQj9CeL5YGsdmOhYmrLrr9fXOzehm).  
Timestamp by third party at  
2022.08.05 12:33:30 CEST

Grant Agreement number: 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

**NET EUROPEAN CONSULTING SRLS (NetEC)**, PIC 897662154, established in VIA DI DONNA OLIMPIA 6, ROMA 00152, Italy,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM** ('the Agreement')

**between** CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE (CNR) **and** the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Federico Gallas with ECAS id n007z8xj signed in the Participant Portal on 05/08/2022 at 14:52:19 (transaction id SigId-147270-it2xm VxmSaN8ibvd5Stv2i0ujWio6TenCa5hHc0XAP3hmeUzYFuQnXIGM10 fzKXBEAb9iNbiyxVPp4a04fMDQB-yntO97TTHq29yS3sozNII-pE6Uh RTnxSCnK996KgUdHQ0GYKupBrVBaXM4EIzepnXP2RYhGef7Hg0ZW ozpFp52UT2qiLbXi9WmrpVfFovAup). Timestamp by third party at 2022.08.05 15:52:25 CEST

Grant Agreement number: 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

**ENALEIA ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIREIA (ENALEIA AMKE)**, PIC 901798622,  
established in PATRIARCHOU IOARKEIM 81, PIRAEUS 185 38, Greece,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM** ('the Agreement')

**between** CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE (CNR) **and** the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

#### SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Eleftherios-Lampros ARAPAKIS with ECAS id narapael signed in the Participant Portal on 24/08/2022 at 10:33:41 (transaction id SigId-48400-Hbb9AX5FLtIcMumgfVmaZmWoPnA9Jrk4ZxNgh8024BejCd29x FbZNEJVMFneIzHZcyTzOb03CzHDUfC1eg7ZruW-r50vSrmBGyClOU754zjTvO-dSzlD0uVkhGSL7qQHOCzyWnFQv3kvjI6zjN0c2CsC4qOVWGPvD3kGkfQWJBUcLrcHzPZZsgscFNUuzm4MF7TUupF)  
. Timestamp by third party at  
2022.08.24 11:33:49 CEST

Grant Agreement number: 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

**UNIVERSITA POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE (UNIVPM)**, PIC 999866689, established in PIAZZA ROMA 22, ANCONA 60121, Italy,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM** ('the Agreement')

**between** CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE (CNR) **and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

#### SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Gian Luca Gregori with ECAS id n002zvr signed in the Participant Portal on 24/08/2022 at 11:36:14 (transaction id SigId-49567-zxnSxr w3hSSy7gezvf17kHGabmzsNQ3bInrFhzHpWEGaXkqaEbPxzPgEQQs Cvk21NgvR1FPvFDNFTkmZMmzONesW-rS0vSrmBGYClOU7S4zTjvO-6zjjqUv8veb6tEQClOybwDzfsyJvFKJtn0FH7oWDZPZIRjtI7zXgW2zu5J5 jvzse9g85VJvzeFktHbEKI7ovL5Im). Timestamp by third party at 2022.08.24 12:36:20 CEST

Grant Agreement number: 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

**AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS (CSIC), PIC 999991722, established in CALLE SERRANO 117, MADRID 28006, Spain,**

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM ('the Agreement')**

**between CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE (CNR) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),**

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

#### SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Francisco Javier Moreno Fuentes with ECAS id n002mz0g signed in the Participant Portal on 08/08/2022 at 07:34:22 (transaction id SigId-97551-JWS5Ztqwji0w9oTqRTiUpdR5WwzlnuVZI9O6KlxjopMeNJRtTq dGoAT6BZcqByIkQv45tghlrv3y7qpYoN0p4-r50vSrmBGYC5A0GYws8IKq-qzxijNZpKg4MD3KKQUOhSVKuCHbTEms T6RfUmZJFUjjzUbGXv00JmrAldFHZLzYzH45q7CFHOVUXWf18zbe1CQ) . Timestamp by third party at 2022.08.08 08:34:26 CEST

Grant Agreement number: 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

**UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II (UNINA)**, PIC 999976590, established in CORSO UMBERTO I, 40, NAPOLI 80138, Italy,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM** ('the Agreement')

**between** CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE (CNR) **and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Gionata DE VICO with ECAS id nvicogio signed in the Participant Portal on 05/08/2022 at 13:54:42 (transaction id SigId-146190-2DqgfvogAmjhrIP4B93hczlzbUUCagnJe4OM4eIzQO3wTzstaESWygEYFPhPFVppVEgKu7eKWJ7zICNwFhMbozm-yntOf97TTHq29yS3sozNII-MQIEfzd7WTJaLYpfmMJ2GLJZqEITAA6p4qIWXTwZMTqU3ziV2fdxEallioPec6hafPyqkV86ue5ujPswDhgFQ8). Timestamp by third party at 2022.08.05 14:54:49 CEST

Grant Agreement number: 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

**REGIONE PUGLIA (REGIONE PUGLIA)**, PIC 999523503, established in VIA GENTILE 52, BARI 70126, Italy,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM** ('the Agreement')

**between** CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE (CNR) **and** the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

#### SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Caterina Dibitonto with ECAS id n005rqm7 signed in the Participant Portal on 01/09/2022 at 13:15:32 (transaction id SigId-29379-2IP0lg Hij5Bbj8pRoKIXKGhdYUDcGajRK2HBicT01Ze6Lb40s6TNUXs6aNpzm upGZ72fvgMeKGeLzNjFdztIKoG-jpJZscgsw0KR2tZlwzPzRzHW-2BphJS o1fBeOXdynqaUwriZHzk9HaNjkjV0DweapvshliV9ozTLf8MzsU9eF3 DzbGNwsukAO8MNqb5i0zT4D0). Timestamp by third party at 2022.09.01 14:15:39 CEST

Grant Agreement number: 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

**PERIFEREIAKO TAMEIO ANAPTYKSIS PERIFEREIAS THESSALIAS (RoT)**, PIC 892749104, established in KOUMOUNDOUROU KAI PAPANASTASIOU, LARISSA 41110, Greece,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM** ('the Agreement')

**between** CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE (CNR) **and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

#### SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

VASILEIOS CHATZIKAMAGIANNIS with ECAS id n005i0jk signed in the Participant Portal on 22/08/2022 at 10:27:20 (transaction id SigId-25221-d1vp6kFLMiQxNzKaBFIm1j6joIHZRzgxTwb04DmEpkvUBwzs27D2HJ13YS5swjbs22kzY8W2jHNNtZzYnzVBsRG-r50vSrmBGyClOU754zjTvO-UfySnabsDy1L0IU8tb0CfLWdqdz3xvOzznFNJJZdex00vzddOhkUn4Cj2Epyy1fjucPWftP15jsaasY40D4oQS).  
Timestamp by third party at  
2022.08.22 11:27:26 CEST

Grant Agreement number: 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

**STAZIONE ZOOLOGICA ANTON DOHRN (SZN)**, PIC 999468310, established in Villa Comunale, NAPOLI 80121, Italy,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM** ('the Agreement')

**between** CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE (CNR) **and** the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Roberto DANOVARO with ECAS id ndanovar signed in the Participant Portal on 05/08/2022 at 14:29:15 (transaction id SigId-146807-Oyzb2 QptxVsGtKzzNZrbrtkXLZlviBtMCwaWFygWSF8egJUFzMIjHQ2ozrEZgm H1gofJf3BSzSAO1pGvVKsGNVEW-yntOf97TTHq29yS3sozNII-LgSD9fjz xPrGwn4SzfxtXsviZnoaezSRc71F33NIG1C6IfWZ7uJJRXhw0hizKNuEa3 7zwUTWkvBemfzi2NEoXE3m). Timestamp by third party at 2022.08.05 15:29:21 CEST

Grant Agreement number: 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

**FEDERAZIONE NAZIONALE DELLA IMPRESE DI PESCA (FEDERPESCA)**, PIC 920378293, established in CORSO D'ITALIA, 92, ROMA 00198, Italy,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074547 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM** ('the Agreement')

**between** CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE (CNR) **and** the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Francesca Biondo with ECAS id n00959g3 signed in the Participant Portal on 05/08/2022 at 15:04:57 (transaction id SigId-147492-v62ZedyT6iHQvdkbi6aozRoTrMYmuCLZX6jaf0Bow0yokA8TuHgRqNznUUW4cPG0NEMxyDvjszPHM9KzGBGGJWe-yntOf97TTHq29yS3sozNII-meLk2RrYWogn8rCCLyxG68zH054KmEbWbNTTiwH9M9eWryBQcRzev9E7avdBZNhOa3xVbyIWkkidOYBBFPBQdXJ). Timestamp by third party at 2022.08.05 16:05:03 CEST



**ANNEX 5****SPECIFIC RULES****INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS —  
ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE (— ARTICLE 16)****Rights of use of the granting authority on results for information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes**

The granting authority also has the right to exploit non-sensitive results of the action for information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes, using any of the following modes:

- **use for its own purposes** (in particular, making them available to persons working for the granting authority or any other EU service (including institutions, bodies, offices, agencies, etc.) or EU Member State institution or body; copying or reproducing them in whole or in part, in unlimited numbers; and communication through press information services)
- **distribution to the public** in hard copies, in electronic or digital format, on the internet including social networks, as a downloadable or non-downloadable file
- **editing** or **redrafting** (including shortening, summarising, changing, correcting, cutting, inserting elements (e.g. meta-data, legends or other graphic, visual, audio or text elements extracting parts (e.g. audio or video files), dividing into parts or use in a compilation
- **translation** (including inserting subtitles/dubbing) in all official languages of EU
- **storage** in paper, electronic or other form
- **archiving** in line with applicable document-management rules
- the right to authorise **third parties** to act on its behalf or sub-license to third parties, including if there is licensed background, any of the rights or modes of exploitation set out in this provision
- **processing**, analysing, aggregating the results and **producing derivative works**
- **disseminating** the results in widely accessible databases or indexes (such as through 'open access' or 'open data' portals or similar repositories, whether free of charge or not.

The beneficiaries must ensure these rights of use for the whole duration they are protected by industrial or intellectual property rights.

If results are subject to moral rights or third party rights (including intellectual property rights or rights of natural persons on their image and voice), the beneficiaries must ensure that they

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5524936 - 02/08/2022

comply with their obligations under this Agreement (in particular, by obtaining the necessary licences and authorisations from the rights holders concerned).

### **COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY (— ARTICLE 17)**

#### **Communication and dissemination plan**

The beneficiaries must provide a detailed communication and dissemination plan, setting out the objectives, key messaging, target audiences, communication channels, social media plan, planned budget and relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluation.

#### **Additional communication and dissemination activities**

The beneficiaries must engage in the following additional communication and dissemination activities:

- **present the project** (including project summary, coordinator contact details, list of participants, European flag and funding statement and special logo and project results) on the beneficiaries' **websites** or **social media accounts**
- for actions involving equipment, infrastructure or works, display as soon as the work on the action starts a **printed or electronic sign** of appropriate size, with European flag and funding statement and special logo
- upload the public **project results** to the LIFE Project Results platform, available through the Funding & Tenders Portal .

#### **Special logos**

Communication activities and infrastructure, equipment or major results funded by the grant must moreover display the following logo:

- the LIFE Programme logo



and

- for projects in Natura 2000 sites or contributing to the integrity of Natura 2000 network: the Natura 2000 logo



## **SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION (— ARTICLE 18)**

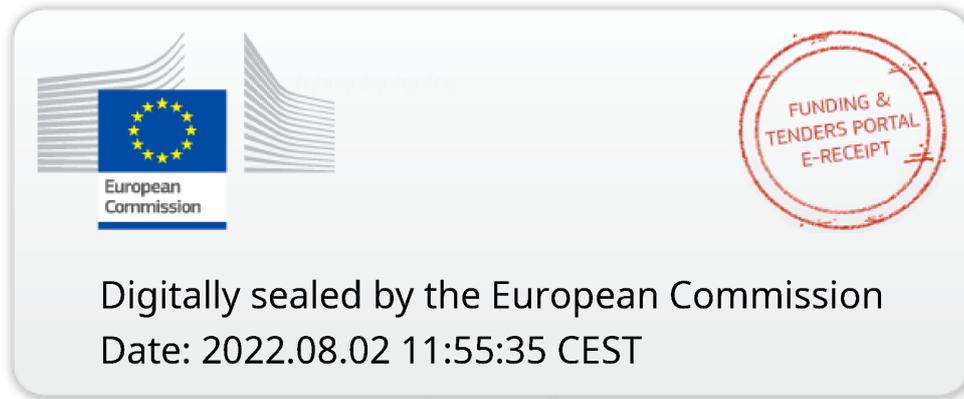
### **Durability**

Unless exempted by the granting authority, beneficiaries of Standard Action Projects, Strategic Nature Projects and Strategic Integrated Projects must commit to continue to use and maintain after the end of the action equipment bought and eligible at full costs, for activities pursuing the action's objectives. Such equipment must be used for these purposes — for at least five years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1) or until the end of its economic lifespan (i.e. until it has been fully depreciated) — whichever is earlier.

### **Specific rules for blending operations**

When implementing blending operations, the beneficiaries acknowledge and accept that:

- the grant depends on the approved financing from the Implementing Partner and/or public or private investors for the project
- they must inform the granting authority both about the approval for financing and the financial close — within 15 days
- the payment deadline for the first prefinancing is automatically suspended until the granting authority is informed about the approval for financing
- both actions will be managed and monitored in parallel and in close coordination with the Implementing Partner, in particular:
  - all information, data and documents (including the due diligence by the Implementing Partner and the signed agreement) may be exchanged and may be relied on for the management of the other action (if needed)
  - issues in one action may impact the other (e.g. suspension or termination in one action may lead to suspension also of the other action; termination of the grant will normally suspend and exit from further financing and vice versa, etc.)
- the granting authority may disclose confidential information also to the Implementing Partner.



This electronic receipt is a digitally signed version of the document submitted by your organisation. Both the content of the document and a set of metadata have been digitally sealed.

This digital signature mechanism, using a public-private key pair mechanism, uniquely binds this eReceipt to the modules of the Funding & Tenders Portal of the European Commission, to the transaction for which it was generated and ensures its full integrity. Therefore a complete digitally signed trail of the transaction is available both for your organisation and for the issuer of the eReceipt.

Any attempt to modify the content will lead to a break of the integrity of the electronic signature, which can be verified at any time by clicking on the eReceipt validation symbol.

More info about eReceipts can be found in the FAQ page of the Funding & Tenders Portal.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/faq>

[LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM, GA n.: 101074547] Consortium Agreement, version [0], [31/08/2022]

ALLEGATO B  
Codice CIFRA: AST/DEL/2022/00047

# Consortium Agreement



LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM

Version [0] – [31/08/2022]

(Based on DESCА – Model Consortium Agreement for Horizon Europe, version 1, December 2021)

[LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM, GA n.: 101074547] Consortium Agreement, version [0], [31/08/2022]

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### Change Records

Version	Date	Changes
Version 1	December 2021	Initial draft for Horizon Europe

### REMARKS

This Consortium Agreement model is created for projects which will be governed by a Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement (MGA) under Horizon Europe, i.e. notably "Research and Innovation Actions" and "Innovation Actions". A use for other types of projects will likely require adaptations.

The new DESCA model addresses the features of Horizon Europe. Following the feedback of many stakeholders, the explicit aim of the update for Horizon Europe was to adapt where necessary and to keep the continuity of the DESCA 2020 text where possible.

**The model should be adapted in order to suit the specific features of each single project.**

In order to facilitate coordination and collaboration, this model provides for internal arrangements between beneficiaries, governance of the project and financial issues.

In order to be as user-friendly as possible, the model and the elucidations focus on a "mainstream" project and are not intended to give all alternatives for a given situation. The wording aims to be accessible and easy to understand notably for non-lawyers.

The Horizon Europe MGA contains several options which will be adapted to the individual project. DESCA for Horizon Europe is based on what we expect to be the "default setting" of MGA options.

The Horizon Europe Regulation, all MGAs, and the other related documents are available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents:programCode=HORIZON>

It is strongly advised to read the MGA and the related documents, and it is important to be aware of the fact that DESCA is supplementary to the Horizon Europe Regulation and the Grant Agreement. **Most items regulated there are NOT repeated here, but should be carefully taken into account and re-read in case of doubt.**

The DESCA model is presented with two columns: the left side with legal text and the right side with elucidation, remarks and references to the Horizon Europe Multi-beneficiary General Model Grant Agreement. This version as well as a version without elucidations is available on the website <http://www.desca-agreement.eu>.

DESCA provides a core text, modules and several options, which can be used as follows:

1. Core text: The main body of the text.
2. Two modules for the Governance Structure:

Module GOV SP for Small and Medium-sized Projects:

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Simple governance structure: only a Steering Committee [Module GOV SP] (contained in the text).

Module GOV LP for Large Projects:

Complex governance structure: one governing body, Steering Committee/Executive Board [Module GOV LP]. (contained in the Annex)

If the project comprises just a modest number of work packages, and is not very complicated, the Module GOV SP will normally be fit for purpose.

However, if the project is more complicated and requires an intermediary governance structure, the Module GOV LP, which includes an Executive Board, is advised.

3. Module IPR SC - special clauses for Software:

If your project has a strong focus on software issues, you may wish to use the software module which provides more detailed provisions regarding software (sublicensing rights, open source code software etc.) [Module IPR SC].

4. Options:

The core text contains different options in some clauses, especially in the IPR section. Any optional parts of the text are marked **yellow**; so are other items where variable numbers/data should be adapted to the project.

Option 1 in the IPR clauses reflects the preference of most stakeholders (some industry sectors as well as universities and research organisations) where fair and reasonable remuneration for having access to other partners' project results for exploitation is foreseen.

Option 2 in the IPR clauses reflects a situation preferred by some industries, where all project results are available for exploitation without any form of remuneration to the owners.

Advice: A mix of Option 1 and Option 2 can in some cases lead to inconsistencies.

**A note on Innovation Procurement:**

For pre-commercial procurement (PCP) or public procurement of innovative solutions (PPI) actions, there are specific rules in accordance with Article 26 of the Horizon Europe Regulation and the MGA (Annex 5). For this kind of Innovation Procurement projects, a Party may enter into a procurement procedure and will have to ensure that the specific rules will be taken into account. For the later tender processes a separate procurement agreement is recommended.

**Adapting the DESCA model:**

The DESCA Core Group recognises that users of the DESCA Model Consortium Agreement may wish to adapt the original DESCA text to their own needs and accordingly invites them, in the interests of transparency and integrity, to freely and clearly indicate for their actual or potential partners the adaptations which they have made.

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## CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT

THIS CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT is based upon Regulation (EU) No 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027), laying down its rules for participation and dissemination (hereinafter referred to as "Horizon Europe Regulation"), and on the European Commission's General Model Grant Agreement and its Annexes, and is made on the **1st September 2022**, hereinafter referred to as the Effective Date

### BETWEEN:

**CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE (CNR), PIC 999979500, established in PIAZZALE ALDO MORO 7, ROMA 00185, Italy, the Coordinator**

### AND

**2. UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI BARI ALDO MORO (UNIBA), PIC 999840596, established in PIAZZA UMBERTO I 1, BARI 70121, Italy,**

**3. HELLENIC CENTRE FOR MARINE RESEARCH (HCMR), PIC 999577532, established in LEOFOROS ATHENS SOUNIO 46 7KM, ATTICA ANAVYSSOS 19013, Greece,**

**4. NET EUROPEAN CONSULTING SRLS (NetEC), PIC 897662154, established in VIA DI DONNA OLIMPIA 6, ROMA 00152, Italy,**

**5. ENALEIA ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIREIA (ENALEIA AMKE), PIC 901798622, established in PATRIARCHOU IOARKEIM 81, PIRAEUS 185 38, Greece,**

**6. UNIVERSITA POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE (UNIVPM), PIC 999866689, established in PIAZZA ROMA 22, ANCONA 60121, Italy,**

**7. AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS, M.P., (CSIC), PIC 999991722, established in CALLE SERRANO 117, MADRID 28006, Spain,**

**8. UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II (UNINA), PIC 999976590, established in CORSO UMBERTO I, 40, NAPOLI 80138, Italy,**

**9. REGIONE PUGLIA (REGIONE PUGLIA), PIC 999523503, established in VIA GENTILE 52, BARI 70126, Italy,**

**10. PERIFEREIAKO TAMEIO ANAPTYKSIS PERIFEREIAS THESSALIAS (RoT), PIC 892749104, established in KOUMOUNDOUROU KAI PAPANASTASIOU, LARISSA 41110, Greece,**

**11. STAZIONE ZOOLOGICA ANTON DOHRN (SZN), PIC 999468310, established in Villa Comunale, NAPOLI 80121, Italy,**

**12. FEDERAZIONE NAZIONALE DELLA IMPRESE DI PESCA (FEDERPESCA), PIC 920378293, established in CORSO D'ITALIA, 92, ROMA 00198, Italy,**

[LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM, GA n.: 101074547] Consortium Agreement, version [0], [31/08/2022]

hereinafter, jointly or individually, referred to as "Parties" or "Party"

relating to the Action entitled

**Deep Reef restoration And Litter removal in the Mediterranean sea**

in short

**Insert: LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM -**

hereinafter referred to as "Project"

**WHEREAS:**

The Parties, having considerable experience in the field concerned, have submitted a proposal for the Project to the Granting Authority as part of Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027).

The Parties wish to specify or supplement binding commitments among themselves in addition to the provisions of the specific Grant Agreement to be signed by the Parties and the Granting Authority (hereinafter "Grant Agreement").

The Parties are aware that this Consortium Agreement is based upon the [DESCA model consortium agreement](#).

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

[LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM, GA n.: 101074547] Consortium Agreement, version [0], [31/08/2022]

## 1 Definitions

### 1.1 Definitions

Words beginning with a capital letter shall have the meaning defined either herein or in the Horizon Europe Regulation or in the Grant Agreement including its Annexes.

### 1.2 Additional Definitions

#### “Consortium Body”

Consortium Body means any management body described in Section 6 (Governance Structure) of this Consortium Agreement.

#### “Consortium Plan”

Consortium Plan means the description of the Action and the related agreed budget as first defined in the Grant Agreement and which may be updated by the steering committee

#### “Granting Authority”

means the body awarding the grant for the Project.

#### “Defaulting Party”

Defaulting Party means a Party which the steering committee has identified to be in breach of this Consortium Agreement and/or the Grant Agreement as specified in Section 4.2 of this Consortium Agreement.

#### “Needed”

means:

*For the implementation of the Project:*

Access Rights are Needed if, without the grant of such Access Rights, carrying out the tasks assigned to the recipient Party would be technically or legally impossible, significantly delayed, or require significant additional financial or human resources.

*For Exploitation of own Results:*

Access Rights are Needed if, without the grant of such Access Rights, the Exploitation of own Results would be technically or legally impossible.

#### “Software”

Software means sequences of instructions to carry out a process in, or convertible into, a form executable by a computer and fixed in any tangible medium of expression.

## 2 Purpose

The purpose of this Consortium Agreement is to specify with respect to the Project the relationship among the Parties, in particular concerning the organisation of the work between the Parties, the

[LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM, GA n.: 101074547] Consortium Agreement, version [0], [31/08/2022]

management of the Project and the rights and obligations of the Parties concerning inter alia liability, Access Rights and dispute resolution.

### **3 Entry into force, duration and termination**

#### **3.1 Entry into force**

An entity becomes a Party to this Consortium Agreement upon signature of this Consortium Agreement by a duly authorised representative.

This Consortium Agreement shall have effect from the Effective Date identified at the beginning of this Consortium Agreement.

An entity becomes a new Party to the Consortium Agreement upon signature of the accession document (Attachment 2) by the new Party and the Coordinator. Such accession shall have effect from the date identified in the accession document.

#### **3.2 Duration and termination**

This Consortium Agreement shall continue in full force and effect until complete fulfilment of all obligations undertaken by the Parties under the Grant Agreement and under this Consortium Agreement.

However, this Consortium Agreement or the participation of one or more Parties to it may be terminated in accordance with the terms of this Consortium Agreement.

If

- the Grant Agreement is not signed by the Granting Authority or a Party, or
- the Grant Agreement is terminated, or
- a Party's participation in the Grant Agreement is terminated,

this Consortium Agreement shall automatically terminate in respect of the affected Party/ies, subject to the provisions surviving the expiration or termination under Section 3.3 of this Consortium Agreement.

#### **3.3 Survival of rights and obligations**

The provisions relating to Access Rights, Dissemination and confidentiality, for the time period mentioned therein, as well as for liability, applicable law and settlement of disputes shall survive the expiration or termination of this Consortium Agreement.

Termination shall not affect any rights or obligations of a Party leaving the Project incurred prior to the date of termination, unless otherwise agreed between the steering committee

Steering Committee and the leaving Party. This includes the obligation to provide all necessary input, deliverables and documents for the period of its participation.

### **4 Responsibilities of Parties**

#### **4.1 General principles**

Each Party undertakes to take part in the efficient implementation of the Project, and to cooperate, perform and fulfil, promptly and on time, all of its obligations under the Grant Agreement and this

[LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM, GA n.: 101074547] Consortium Agreement, version [0], [31/08/2022]

Consortium Agreement as may be reasonably required from it and in a manner of good faith as prescribed by Belgian law.

Each Party undertakes to notify promptly the Granting Authority and the other Parties, in accordance with the governance structure of the Project, of any significant information, fact, problem or delay likely to affect the Project.

Each Party shall promptly provide all information reasonably required by a Consortium Body or by the Coordinator to carry out its tasks and shall responsibly manage the access of its employees to the EU Funding & Tenders Portal.

Each Party shall take reasonable measures to ensure the accuracy of any information or materials it supplies to the other Parties.

## **4.2 Breach**

In the event that the Steering Committee identifies a breach by a Party of its obligations under this Consortium Agreement or the Grant Agreement (e.g. improper implementation of the Project), the Coordinator or, if the Coordinator is in breach of its obligations, the Party appointed by the steering committee will give formal notice to such Party requiring that such breach will be remedied within 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of the written notice by the Party.

If such breach is substantial and is not remedied within that period or is not capable of remedy, the steering committee Steering Committee may decide to declare the Party to be a Defaulting Party and to decide on the consequences thereof which may include termination of its participation.

## **4.3 Involvement of third parties**

A Party that enters into a subcontract or otherwise involves third parties (including but not limited to Affiliated Entities or other Participants) in the Project remains responsible for carrying out its relevant part of the Project and for such third party's compliance with the provisions of this Consortium Agreement and of the Grant Agreement. Such Party has to ensure that the involvement of third parties does not affect the rights and obligations of the other Parties under this Consortium Agreement and the Grant Agreement.

## **4.4 Specific responsibilities regarding data protection**

Where necessary, the Parties shall cooperate in order to enable one another to fulfil legal obligations arising under applicable data protection laws (the *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data* and relevant national data protection law applicable to said Party) within the scope of the performance and administration of the Project and of this Consortium Agreement.

In particular, the Parties shall, where necessary, conclude a separate data processing, data sharing and/or joint controller agreement before any data processing or data sharing takes place.

[LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM, GA n.: 101074547] Consortium Agreement, version [0], [31/08/2022]

## **5 Liability towards each other**

### **5.1 No warranties**

In respect of any information or materials (incl. Results and Background) supplied by one Party to another under the Project, no warranty or representation of any kind is made, given or implied as to the sufficiency or fitness for purpose nor as to the absence of any infringement of any proprietary rights of third parties.

Therefore,

- the recipient Party shall in all cases be entirely and solely liable for the use to which it puts such information and materials, and
- no Party granting Access Rights shall be liable in case of infringement of proprietary rights of a third party resulting from any other Party (or its entities under the same control) exercising its Access Rights.

### **5.2 Limitations of contractual liability**

No Party shall be responsible to any other Party for any indirect or consequential loss or similar damage such as, but not limited to, loss of profit, loss of revenue or loss of contracts, provided such damage was not caused by a wilful act or gross negligence.

For any remaining contractual liability, a Party's aggregate liability towards the other Parties collectively shall be limited to once the Party's share of the total costs of the Project as identified in Annex 2 of the Grant Agreement provided such damage was not caused by a wilful act or gross negligence.

The terms of this Consortium Agreement shall not be construed to amend or limit any Party's statutory liability.

### **5.3 Damage caused to third parties**

Each Party shall be solely liable for any loss, damage or injury to third parties resulting from the performance of the said Party's obligations by it or on its behalf under this Consortium Agreement or from its use of Results or Background.

### **5.4 Force Majeure**

No Party shall be considered to be in breach of this Consortium Agreement if it is prevented from fulfilling its obligations under the Consortium Agreement by Force Majeure.

Each Party will notify the Steering Committee of any Force Majeure without undue delay. If the consequences of Force Majeure for the Project are not overcome within 6 weeks after such notice, the transfer of tasks - if any - shall be decided by the steering committee

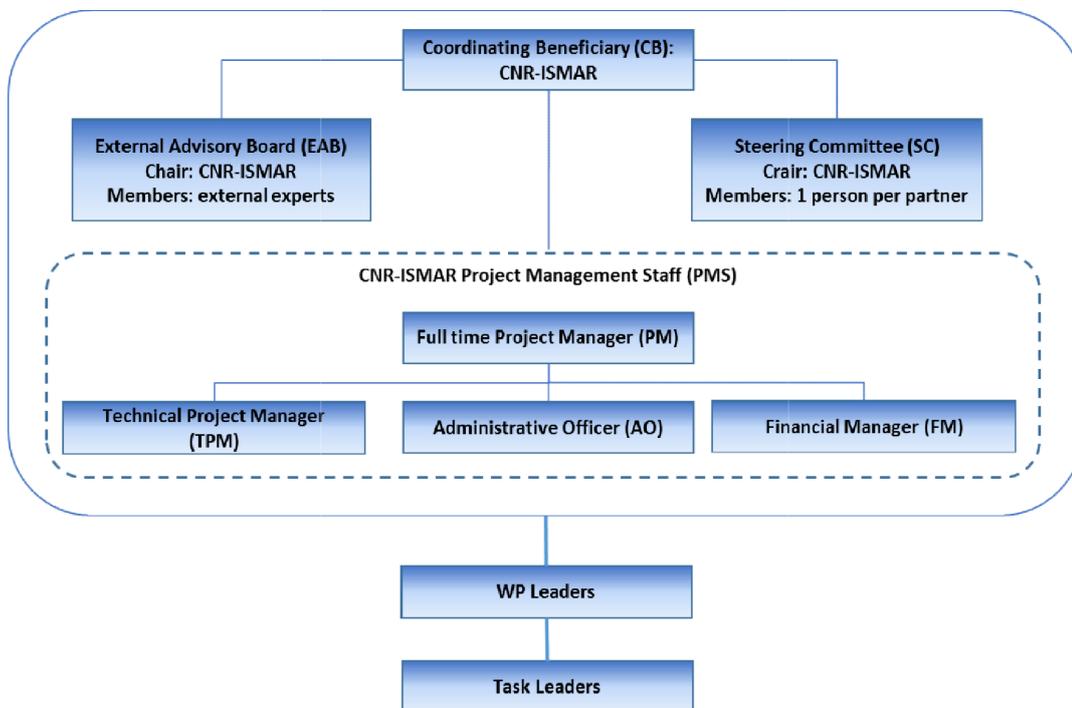
### **5.5**

## **6 Governance structure**

[

### **6.1 General structure**

[LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM, GA n.: 101074547] Consortium Agreement, version [0], [31/08/2022]



**Coordinating Beneficiary (CB).** The Coordinating Beneficiary (CB) is the legal entity acting as the intermediary between the Parties and the Funding Authority, The Coordinating Beneficiary (CB), is the overall responsible of the project and it is the unique contact for the European Commission. The CB will also make sure that all contractual obligations are fulfilled by beneficiaries, who will contribute to the proper management as required by the CB. The CB will supervise LIFE DREAM Project progress (consolidate project planning, overall responsibility for progress and milestone reports, meeting deadlines, financial statements and budgetary overviews and audit to provide the financial final report) partners will be expected to answer promptly and to provide all the documents required. The CB will chair the Steering Committee (SC), the External Advisory Board (EAB). The CB will be supported by the Project Management Staff (PMS). A regular assessment process for the proper implementation of the Project will be carried out with the help of the PMS through an intense and continuous communications and information exchange with WP leaders and partners.

**Steering Committee (SC).** The SC will be composed of 1 representative for each partner and will take care of monitoring the project both technically and financially, prepare the reports for the EC, solve technical and management problems and make any changes to the project and ask the EC for exemptions or modifications. CNR as CB will coordinate the meetings and will be responsible for setting the agenda. The beneficiaries will participate in the meetings and give all the contributions required. The partner responsible for the organization will be the one who will host the meeting. SC meetings will be at least 8 and will be organized about every 6 months, including the kick-off meeting, but it will be possible to organize more meetings for further necessities expressed by the CB or other partners. Every SC meeting will be split up in a section for financial and administrative aspects and a section regarding technical issues, according to the phase of the project.

**External Advisory Board (EAB).** The EAB is a consultative authority that could provide support for specific parts of the project to get an external view point of experts and to qualify LIFE DREAM Project contents. Since the high variety of themes treated in the project, the EAB is thought to have a structure with a modifiable composition. The EAB members will be nominated by M6 by the SC.

**Project Management Staff (PMS).** The PMS is a team at CNR including a technical project manager, an administrative officer and a financial manager, and having a strong experience in EU project management and coordination. The PMS will facilitate communication and integration among the beneficiaries and take over all the financial management issues. The PM and PMS will also make sure that all contractual obligations are fulfilled by associated beneficiaries.

**Project manager (PM).** The CNR will hire a new resource that will work specifically as LIFE DREAM Project Manager full time, completely dedicated to the project under the CNR direct control as CB. The PM will make sure

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*that the financial accounting and its timing will comply with the requirements established by the EC. The PM coordinates the financial accounting and financial reporting activities of all the partners. The PM will be part of the internal CNR staff, more specifically the PM will be part of the Work Package and Task Leaders.*

**WP and Task Leaders** are responsible for the management of their respective activity. Task Leaders are assigned in agreement with the respective Work Package Leader. Task Leaders responsibilities consist of:

- (a) Coordinating the tasks and activities towards the Activity objectives;
- (b) Ensuring a smooth running and co-ordination with other Work Packages and/or Tasks;
- (c) Monitoring of the activity progress with respect to activity goals, milestones, results adequacy.

### 6.3 Operational procedures for the **Steering Committee (SC)**:

#### 6.3.1 Representation in meetings

Any Party which is a member of a Consortium Body (hereinafter referred to as "Member"):

- should be present or represented at any meeting;
- may appoint a substitute or a proxy to attend and vote at any meeting;
- and shall participate in a cooperative manner in the meetings.

#### 6.3.2 Preparation and organisation of meetings

##### 6.3.2.1 Convening meetings :

The chairperson shall convene ordinary meetings of the Steering Committee at least once every six months and shall also convene extraordinary meetings at any time upon written request of any Member.

##### 6.3.2.2 Notice of a meeting

The chairperson shall give written notice of a meeting to each Member as soon as possible and no later than 14 calendar days preceding an ordinary meeting and 7 calendar days preceding an extraordinary meeting.

##### 6.3.2.3 Sending the agenda:

The chairperson shall prepare and send each Member an agenda no later than 14 calendar days preceding the meeting, or 7 calendar days before an extraordinary meeting.

##### 6.3.2.4 Adding agenda items:

Any agenda item requiring a decision by the Members must be identified as such on the agenda.

Any Member may add an item to the original agenda by written notice to all of the other Members no later than 7 calendar days preceding the meeting and 2 days preceding an extraordinary meeting.

##### 6.3.2.5

During a meeting of the Steering Committee, the Members present or represented can unanimously agree to add a new item to the original agenda.

##### 6.3.2.6

Meetings of the Steering Committee may also be held by tele- or videoconference or other telecommunication means.

##### 6.3.2.7

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Decisions will only be binding once the relevant part of the minutes has been accepted according to Section 6.3.6.2.

### **6.3.3 Decisions without a meeting**

Any decision may also be taken without a meeting if

- a) the Coordinator circulates to all Members of the Steering Committee a suggested decision with a deadline for responses of at least **10** calendar days after receipt by a Party and
- b) the decision is agreed by 51 % of all Parties.

The Coordinator shall inform all the Members of the outcome of the vote.

A veto according to Section 6.3.5 may be submitted up to **15** calendar days after receipt of this information.

The decision will be binding after the Coordinator sends a notification to all Members. The Coordinator will keep records of the votes and make them available to the Parties on request.

### **6.3.4 Voting rules and quorum**

#### 6.3.4.1

The Steering Committee shall not deliberate and decide validly in meetings unless two-thirds (2/3) of its Members are present or represented (quorum).

If the quorum is not reached, the chairperson of the Steering Committee shall convene another ordinary meeting within 15 calendar days. If in this meeting the quorum is not reached once more, the chairperson shall convene an extraordinary meeting which shall be entitled to decide even if less than the quorum of Members is present or represented.

#### 6.3.4.2

Each Member present or represented in the meeting shall have one vote.

#### 6.3.4.3

A Party which the Steering Committee has declared according to Section 4.2 to be a Defaulting Party may not vote.

#### 6.3.4.4

Decisions shall be taken by a majority of **two-thirds (2/3)** of the votes cast.

### **6.3.5 Veto rights**

#### 6.3.5.1

A Party which can show that its own work, time for performance, costs, liabilities, intellectual property rights or other legitimate interests would be severely affected by a decision of the Steering Committee may exercise a veto with respect to the corresponding decision or relevant part of the decision.

#### 6.3.5.2

When the decision is foreseen on the original agenda, a Party may only veto such a decision during the

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meeting.

#### 6.3.5.3

When a decision has been taken on a new item added to the agenda before or during the meeting, a Party may veto such decision during the meeting or within 15 calendar days after receipt of the draft minutes of the meeting.

#### 6.3.5.4

When a decision has been taken without a meeting a Party may veto such decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the written notice by the chairperson of the outcome of the vote.

#### 6.3.5.5

In case of exercise of veto, the Parties shall make every effort to resolve the matter which occasioned the veto to the general satisfaction of all Parties.

#### 6.3.5.6

A Party may neither veto decisions relating to its identification to be in breach of its obligations nor to its identification as a Defaulting Party. The Defaulting Party may not veto decisions relating to its participation and termination in the consortium or the consequences of them.

#### 6.3.5.7

A Party requesting to leave the consortium may not veto decisions relating thereto.

### 6.3.6 Minutes of meetings

#### 6.3.6.1

The chairperson shall produce minutes of each meeting which shall be the formal record of all decisions taken. He/she shall send draft minutes to all Members within 10 calendar days of the meeting.

#### 6.3.6.2

The minutes shall be considered as accepted if, within 15 calendar days from receipt, no Party has sent an objection to the chairperson with respect to the accuracy of the draft minutes by written notice.

#### 6.3.6.3

The chairperson shall send the accepted minutes to all the Members, and to the Coordinator, who shall retain copies of them.

### 6.3.7 Decisions of the Steering Committee

The steering committee, shall be free to act on its own initiative to formulate proposals and take decisions in accordance with the procedures set out herein.

The following decisions shall be taken by the Steering Committee:

Content, finances and intellectual property rights

- Proposals for changes to Annexes 1 and 2 of the Grant Agreement to be agreed by the Granting Authority
- Changes to the Consortium Plan

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- Modifications or withdrawal of Background in Attachment 1 (Background Included)
- Additions to Attachment 3 (List of Third Parties for simplified transfer according to Section 8.3.2)
- Additions to Attachment 4 (Identified entities under the same control)

#### Evolution of the consortium

- Entry of a new Party to the Project and approval of the settlement on the conditions of the accession of such a new Party
- Withdrawal of a Party from the Project and the approval of the settlement on the conditions of the withdrawal
- Identification of a breach by a Party of its obligations under this Consortium Agreement or the Grant Agreement
- Declaration of a Party to be a Defaulting Party
- Remedies to be performed by a Defaulting Party
- Termination of a Defaulting Party's participation in the consortium and measures relating thereto
- Proposal to the Granting Authority for a change of the Coordinator
- Proposal to the Granting Authority for suspension of all or part of the Project
- Proposal to the Granting Authority for termination of the Project and the Consortium Agreement

#### Appointments

On the basis of the Grant Agreement, the appointment, if necessary, of:

In the case of abolished tasks as a result of a decision of the General Assembly, Members shall rearrange the tasks of the Parties concerned. Such rearrangement shall take into consideration any prior legitimate commitments which cannot be cancelled.

### 6.4 Coordinator

#### 6.4.1

The Coordinator shall be the intermediary between the Parties and the Granting Authority and shall perform all tasks assigned to it as described in the Grant Agreement and in this Consortium Agreement.

#### 6.4.2

In particular, the Coordinator shall be responsible for:

- monitoring compliance by the Parties with their obligations under this Consortium Agreement and the Grant Agreement
- keeping the address list of Members and other contact persons updated and available
- collecting, reviewing to verify consistency and submitting reports, other deliverables (including financial statements and related certification) and specific requested documents to the Granting Authority
- preparing the meetings, proposing decisions and preparing the agenda of Steering committee meetings, chairing the meetings, preparing the minutes of the meetings and monitoring the implementation of decisions taken at meetings
- transmitting promptly documents and information connected with the Project to any other Party concerned
- administering the financial contribution of the Granting Authority and fulfilling the financial tasks described in Section 7.2
- providing, upon request, the Parties with official copies or originals of documents that are in the sole possession of the Coordinator when such copies or originals are necessary for the Parties to present claims.

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If one or more of the Parties is late in submission of any Project deliverable, the Coordinator may nevertheless submit the other Parties' Project deliverables and all other documents required by the Grant Agreement to the Granting Authority in time.

#### **6.4.3**

If the Coordinator fails in its coordination tasks, the Steering Committee may propose to the Granting Authority to change the Coordinator.

#### **6.4.4**

The Coordinator shall not be entitled to act or to make legally binding declarations on behalf of any other Party or of the consortium, unless explicitly stated otherwise in the Grant Agreement or this Consortium Agreement.

#### **6.4.5**

The Coordinator shall not enlarge its role beyond the tasks specified in this Consortium Agreement and in the Grant Agreement.

### **6.5 External Expert Advisory Board Members (EAB)**

## **7 Financial provisions**

### **7.1 General Principles**

#### **7.1.1 Distribution of Financial Contribution**

The financial contribution of the Granting Authority to the Project shall be distributed by the Coordinator according to:

- the Consortium Plan
- the approval of reports by the Granting Authority, and
- the provisions of payment in Section 7.2.

A Party shall be funded only for its tasks carried out in accordance with the Consortium Plan.

#### **7.1.2 Justifying Costs**

In accordance with its own usual accounting and management principles and practices, each Party shall be solely responsible for justifying its costs (and those of its Affiliated Entities, if any) with respect to the

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Project towards the Granting Authority. Neither the Coordinator nor any of the other Parties shall be in any way liable or responsible for such justification of costs towards the Granting Authority.

### **7.1.3 Funding Principles**

A Party that spends less than its allocated share of the budget as set out in the Consortium Plan or – in case of reimbursement via unit costs - implements less units than foreseen in the Consortium Plan will be funded in accordance with its units/actual duly justified eligible costs only.

A Party that spends more than its allocated share of the budget as set out in the Consortium Plan will be funded only in respect of duly justified eligible costs up to an amount not exceeding that share.

### **7.1.4 Excess payments**

A Party has received excess payment

- a) if the payment received from the Coordinator exceeds the amount declared or
- b) if a Party has received payments but, within the last year of the Project, its real Project costs fall significantly behind the costs it would be entitled to according to the Consortium Plan.

In case a Party has received excess payment, the Party has to inform the Coordinator and return the relevant amount to the Coordinator without undue delay. In case no refund takes place within 60 days upon request for return of excess payment from the Coordinator, the Party is in substantial breach of the Consortium Agreement.

Amounts which are not refunded by a breaching Party and which are not due to the Granting Authority, shall be apportioned by the Coordinator to the remaining Parties pro rata according to their share of total costs of the Project as identified in the Consortium Budget, until recovery from the breaching Party is possible.

### **7.1.5 Revenue**

In case a Party earns any revenue that is deductible from the total funding as set out in the Consortium Plan, the deduction is only directed toward the Party earning such revenue. The other Parties' financial share of the budget shall not be affected by one Party's revenue. In case the relevant revenue is more than the allocated share of the Party as set out in the Consortium Plan, the Party shall reimburse the funding reduction suffered by other Parties.

### **7.1.6 Financial Consequences of the termination of the participation of a Party**

A Party leaving the consortium shall refund to the Coordinator any payments it has received except the amount of contribution accepted by the Granting Authority or another contributor.

In addition, a Defaulting Party shall, within the limits specified in Section 5.2 of this Consortium Agreement, bear any reasonable and justifiable additional costs occurring to the other Parties in order to perform the leaving Party's task and necessary additional efforts to fulfil them as a consequence of the Party leaving the consortium. The Steering Committee should agree on a procedure regarding additional costs which are not covered by the Defaulting Party or the Mutual Insurance Mechanism.

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## **7.2 Payments**

### **7.2.1 Payments to Parties are the exclusive task of the Coordinator.**

In particular, the Coordinator shall:

notify the Party concerned promptly of the date and composition of the amount transferred to its bank account, giving the relevant references

perform diligently its tasks in the proper administration of any funds and in maintaining financial accounts

undertake to keep the Granting Authority's financial contribution to the Project separated from its normal business accounts, its own assets and property, except if the Coordinator is a Public Body or is not entitled to do so due to statutory legislation.

With reference to Article 22 of the Grant Agreement, no Party shall before the end of the Project receive more than its allocated share of the maximum grant amount less the amounts retained by the Granting Authority for the Mutual Insurance Mechanism and for the final payment.

### **7.2.2**

The transfer of the initial pre-financing, the additional pre-financings (if any) and interim payments to Parties will be handled in accordance with Article 22.1. and Article 7 of the Grant Agreement following this payment schedule:

Funding of costs included in the Consortium Plan will be paid by the Coordinator to the Parties after receipt of payments from the Granting Authority without undue delay and in conformity with the provisions of the Grant Agreement. Costs accepted by the Granting Authority will be paid to the Party concerned.

The Coordinator is entitled to withhold any payments due to a Party identified by the Steering Committee to be in breach of its obligations under this Consortium Agreement or the Grant Agreement or to a Beneficiary which has not yet signed this Consortium Agreement.

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The Coordinator is entitled to recover any payments already paid to a Defaulting Party except the costs already claimed by the Defaulting Party and accepted by the Granting Authority. The Coordinator is equally entitled to withhold payments to a Party when this is suggested by or agreed with the Granting Authority.

## 8 Results

### 8.1 Ownership of Results

Results are owned by the Party that generates them.

### 8.2 Joint ownership

Joint ownership is governed by Grant Agreement Article 16.4 and its Annex 5, Section Ownership of results, with the following additions:

#### Option 1:

Joint ownership is governed by Grant Agreement Article 16.4 and its Annex 5, Section Ownership of results, with the following additions:

Unless otherwise agreed:

- each of the joint owners shall be entitled to use their jointly owned Results for non-commercial research and teaching activities on a royalty-free basis, and without requiring the prior consent of the other joint owner(s), and
- each of the joint owners shall be entitled to otherwise Exploit the jointly owned Results and to grant non-exclusive licenses to third parties (without any right to sub-license), if the other joint owners are given:
  - (a) at least 45 calendar days advance notice; and
  - (b) Fair and Reasonable compensation.

The joint owners shall agree on all protection measures and the division of related cost in advance.

### 8.3 Transfer of Results

#### 8.3.1

Each Party may transfer ownership of its own Results, including its share in jointly owned Results, following the procedures of the Grant Agreement Article 16.4 and its Annex 5, Section Transfer and licensing of results, sub-section "Transfer of ownership".

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### 8.3.2

Each Party may identify specific third parties it intends to transfer the ownership of its Results to in Attachment (3) of this Consortium Agreement. The other Parties hereby waive their right to prior notice and their right to object to such a transfer to listed third parties according to the Grant Agreement Article 16.4 and its Annex 5, Section Transfer of licensing of results, sub-section "Transfer of ownership", 3rd paragraph.

### 8.3.3

The transferring Party shall, however, at the time of the transfer, inform the other Parties of such transfer and shall ensure that the rights of the other Parties under the Consortium Agreement and the Grant Agreement will not be affected by such transfer. Any addition to Attachment (3) after signature of this Consortium Agreement requires a decision of the General Assembly.

### 8.3.4

The Parties recognise that in the framework of a merger or an acquisition of an important part of its assets, it may be impossible under applicable EU and national laws on mergers and acquisitions for a Party to give at least 45 calendar days prior notice for the transfer as foreseen in the Grant Agreement.

### 8.3.5

The obligations above apply only for as long as other Parties still have - or still may request - Access Rights to the Results.

## 8.4 Dissemination

### 8.4.1

For the avoidance of doubt, the confidentiality obligations set out in Section 10 apply to all dissemination activities described in this Section 8.4 as far as Confidential Information is involved.

### 8.4.2 Dissemination of own (including jointly owned) Results

#### 8.4.2.1

During the Project and for a period of 1 year after the end of the Project, the dissemination of own Results by one or several Parties including but not restricted to publications and presentations, shall be governed by the procedure of Article 17.4 of the Grant Agreement and its Annex 5, Section Dissemination, subject to the following provisions.

Prior notice of any planned publication shall be given to the other Parties at least 45 calendar days before the publication. Any objection to the planned publication shall be made in accordance with the Grant Agreement by written notice to the Coordinator and to the Party or Parties proposing the dissemination within 30 calendar days after receipt of the notice. If no objection is made within the time limit stated above, the publication is permitted.

#### 8.4.2.2

An objection is justified if

- a) the protection of the objecting Party's Results or Background would be adversely affected, or

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- b) the objecting Party's legitimate interests in relation to its Results or Background would be significantly harmed, or
- c) the proposed publication includes Confidential Information of the objecting Party.

The objection has to include a precise request for necessary modifications.

#### 8.4.2.3

If an objection has been raised the involved Parties shall discuss how to overcome the justified grounds for the objection on a timely basis (for example by amendment to the planned publication and/or by protecting information before publication) and the objecting Party shall not unreasonably continue the opposition if appropriate measures are taken following the discussion.

#### 8.4.2.4

The objecting Party can request a publication delay of not more than 90 calendar days from the time it raises such an objection. After 90 calendar days the publication is permitted, provided that the objections of the objecting Party have been addressed.

### 8.4.3 Dissemination of another Party's unpublished Results or Background

A Party shall not include in any dissemination activity another Party's Results or Background without obtaining the owning Party's prior written approval, unless they are already published.

### 8.4.4 Cooperation obligations

The Parties undertake to cooperate to allow the timely submission, examination, publication and defense of any dissertation or thesis for a degree that includes their Results or Background subject to the confidentiality and publication provisions agreed in this Consortium Agreement.

### 8.4.5 Use of names, logos or trademarks

Nothing in this Consortium Agreement shall be construed as conferring rights to use in advertising, publicity or otherwise the name of the Parties or any of their logos or trademarks without their prior written approval.

## 9 Access Rights

### 9.1 Background included

#### 9.1.1

In Attachment 1, the Parties have identified and agreed on the Background for the Project and have also, where relevant, informed each other that Access to specific Background is subject to legal restrictions or limits.

Anything not identified in Attachment 1 shall not be the object of Access Right obligations regarding Background.

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### 9.1.2

Any Party may add additional Background to Attachment 1 during the Project provided they give written notice to the other Parties. However, approval of the Steering Committee is needed should a Party wish to modify or withdraw its Background in Attachment 1.

## 9.2 General Principles

### 9.2.1

Each Party shall implement its tasks in accordance with the Consortium Plan and shall bear sole responsibility for ensuring that its acts within the Project do not knowingly infringe third party property rights.

### 9.2.2

Any Access Rights granted exclude any rights to sublicense unless expressly stated otherwise.

### 9.2.3

Access Rights shall be free of any administrative transfer costs.

### 9.2.4

Access Rights are granted on a non-exclusive basis.

### 9.2.5

Results and Background shall be used only for the purposes for which Access Rights to it have been granted.

### 9.2.6

All requests for Access Rights shall be made in writing. The granting of Access Rights may be made conditional on the acceptance of specific conditions aimed at ensuring that these rights will be used only for the intended purpose and that appropriate confidentiality obligations are in place.

### 9.2.7

The requesting Party must show that the Access Rights are Needed.

## 9.3 Access Rights for implementation

Access Rights to Results and Background Needed for the performance of the own work of a Party under the Project shall be granted on a royalty-free basis, unless otherwise agreed for Background in Attachment 1.

## 9.4 Access Rights for Exploitation

### 9.4.1 Access Rights to Results

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Access Rights to Results if Needed for Exploitation of a Party's own Results shall be granted on Fair and Reasonable conditions.

Access rights to Results for internal research and for teaching activities shall be granted on a royalty-free basis.

#### 9.4.2

Access Rights to Background if Needed for Exploitation of a Party's own Results, shall be granted on Fair and Reasonable conditions.

#### 9.4.3

A request for Access Rights may be made up to **twelve** months after the end of the Project or, in the case of Section 9.7.2.1.2, after the termination of the requesting Party's participation in the Project.

### 9.5 Access Rights for entities under the same control

Entities under the same control have Access Rights under the conditions of the Grant Agreement Article 16.4 and its Annex 5, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights for entities under the same control

Such Access Rights must be requested by the entity under the same control from the Party that holds the Background or Results. Alternatively, the Party granting the Access Rights may individually agree with the Party requesting the Access Rights to have the Access Rights include the right to sublicense to the latter's entity under the same control **[listed in Attachment 4]**. Access Rights to an entity under the same control shall be granted on Fair and Reasonable conditions and upon written bilateral agreement.

Entities under the same control which obtain Access Rights in return fulfil all confidentiality obligations accepted by the Parties under the Grant Agreement or this Consortium Agreement as if such entities were Parties.

Access Rights may be refused to entities under the same control if such granting is contrary to the legitimate interests of the Party which owns the Background or the Results.

Access Rights granted to any entity under the same control are subject to the continuation of the Access Rights of the Party with whom it is under the same control, and shall automatically terminate upon termination of the Access Rights granted to such Party.

Upon cessation of the status as an entity under the same control, any Access Rights granted to such former entity under the same control shall lapse.

Further arrangements with entities under the same control may be negotiated in separate agreements.

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## 9.6 Additional Access Rights

### [Option 1:]

For the avoidance of doubt any grant of Access Rights not covered by the Grant Agreement or this Consortium Agreement shall be at the absolute discretion of the owning Party and subject to such terms and conditions as may be agreed between the owning and receiving Parties.

[

## 9.7 Access Rights for Parties entering or leaving the consortium

### 9.7.1 New Parties entering the consortium

As regards Results developed before the accession of the new Party, the new Party will be granted Access Rights on the conditions applying for Access Rights to Background.

### 9.7.2 Parties leaving the consortium

#### 9.7.2.1 Access Rights granted to a leaving Party

##### 9.7.2.1.1 Defaulting Party

Access Rights granted to a Defaulting Party and such Party's right to request Access Rights shall cease immediately upon receipt by the Defaulting Party of the formal notice of the decision of the Steering Committee to terminate its participation in the consortium.

##### 9.7.2.1.2 Non-defaulting Party

A non-defaulting Party leaving voluntarily and with the other Parties' consent shall have Access Rights to the Results developed until the date of the termination of its participation.

It may request Access Rights within the period of time specified in Section 9.4.3.

#### 9.7.2.2 Access Rights to be granted by any leaving Party

Any Party leaving the Project shall continue to grant Access Rights pursuant to the Grant Agreement and this Consortium Agreement as if it had remained a Party for the whole duration of the Project.

## 9.8 Specific Provisions for Access Rights to Software

For the avoidance of doubt, the general provisions for Access Rights provided for in this Section 9 are applicable also to Software.

Parties' Access Rights to Software do not include any right to receive source code or object code ported to a certain hardware platform or any right to receive respective Software documentation in any particular form or detail, but only as available from the Party granting the Access Rights.

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## 10 Non-disclosure of information

### 10.1

All information in whatever form or mode of communication, which is disclosed by a Party (the "Disclosing Party") to any other Party (the "Recipient") in connection with the Project during its implementation and which has been explicitly marked as "confidential" at the time of disclosure, or when disclosed orally has been identified as confidential at the time of disclosure and has been confirmed and designated in writing within 15 calendar days from oral disclosure at the latest as confidential information by the Disclosing Party, is "Confidential Information".

### 10.2

The Recipients hereby undertake in addition and without prejudice to any commitment on non-disclosure under the Grant Agreement, for a period of 5 years after the end of the Project:

- not to use Confidential Information otherwise than for the purpose for which it was disclosed;
- not to disclose Confidential Information without the prior written consent by the Disclosing Party;
- to ensure that internal distribution of Confidential Information by a Recipient shall take place on a strict need-to-know basis; and
- to return to the Disclosing Party, or destroy, on request all Confidential Information that has been disclosed to the Recipients including all copies thereof and to delete all information stored in a machine-readable form to the extent practically possible. The Recipients may keep a copy to the extent it is required to keep, archive or store such Confidential Information because of compliance with applicable laws and regulations or for the proof of on-going obligations provided that the Recipient complies with the confidentiality obligations herein contained with respect to such copy.

### 10.3

The Recipients shall be responsible for the fulfilment of the above obligations on the part of their employees or third parties involved in the Project and shall ensure that they remain so obliged, as far as legally possible, during and after the end of the Project and/or after the termination of the contractual relationship with the employee or third party.

### 10.4

The above shall not apply for disclosure or use of Confidential Information, if and in so far as the Recipient can show that:

- the Confidential Information has become or becomes publicly available by means other than a breach of the Recipient's confidentiality obligations;
- the Disclosing Party subsequently informs the Recipient that the Confidential Information is no longer confidential;
- the Confidential Information is communicated to the Recipient without any obligation of confidentiality by a third party who is to the best knowledge of the Recipient in lawful possession thereof and under no obligation of confidentiality to the Disclosing Party;
- the disclosure or communication of the Confidential Information is foreseen by provisions of the Grant Agreement;
- the Confidential Information, at any time, was developed by the Recipient completely independently of any such disclosure by the Disclosing Party;

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- the Confidential Information was already known to the Recipient prior to disclosure, or
- the Recipient is required to disclose the Confidential Information in order to comply with applicable laws or regulations or with a court or administrative order, subject to the provision Section 10.7 hereunder.

## 10.5

The Recipient shall apply the same degree of care with regard to the Confidential Information disclosed within the scope of the Project as with its own confidential and/or proprietary information, but in no case less than reasonable care

## 10.6

Each Recipient shall promptly inform the relevant Disclosing Party by written notice of any unauthorised disclosure, misappropriation or misuse of Confidential Information after it becomes aware of such unauthorised disclosure, misappropriation or misuse.

## 10.7

If any Recipient becomes aware that it will be required, or is likely to be required, to disclose Confidential Information in order to comply with applicable laws or regulations or with a court or administrative order, it shall, to the extent it is lawfully able to do so, prior to any such disclosure

- notify the Disclosing Party, and
- comply with the Disclosing Party's reasonable instructions to protect the confidentiality of the information.

# 11 Miscellaneous

## 11.1 Attachments, inconsistencies and severability

This Consortium Agreement consists of this core text and:

- Attachment 1 (Background included)
- Attachment 2 (Accession document)
- Attachment 3 (List of third parties for simplified transfer according to Section 8.3.2)
- Attachment 4 (Identified entities under the same control)
- Attachment 5 (NDA for External Expert Advisory Board agreed under Section 6)

In case the terms of this Consortium Agreement are in conflict with the terms of the Grant Agreement, the terms of the latter shall prevail. In case of conflicts between the attachments and the core text of this Consortium Agreement, the latter shall prevail.

Should any provision of this Consortium Agreement become invalid, illegal or unenforceable, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Consortium Agreement. In such a case, the Parties concerned shall be entitled to request that a valid and practicable provision be negotiated that fulfils the purpose of the original provision.

## 11.2 No representation, partnership or agency

Except as otherwise provided in Section 6.4.4, no Party shall be entitled to act or to make legally binding declarations on behalf of any other Party or of the consortium. Nothing in this Consortium Agreement

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shall be deemed to constitute a joint venture, agency, partnership, interest grouping or any other kind of formal business grouping or entity between the Parties.

### **11.3 Formal and written notices**

Any notice to be given under this Consortium Agreement shall be addressed to the recipients as listed in the most current address list kept by the Coordinator.

Any change of persons or contact details shall be immediately communicated to the Coordinator by written notice. The address list shall be accessible to all Parties.

Formal notices:

If it is required in this Consortium Agreement (Sections 4.2, 9.7.2.1.1, and 11.4) that a formal notice, consent or approval shall be given, such notice shall be signed by an authorised representative of a Party and shall either be served personally or sent by mail with recorded delivery with acknowledgement of receipt.

Written notice:

Where written notice is required by this Consortium Agreement, this is fulfilled also by other means of communication such as e-mail **with acknowledgement of receipt.**

### **11.4 Assignment and amendments**

Except as set out in Section 8.3, no rights or obligations of the Parties arising from this Consortium Agreement may be assigned or transferred, in whole or in part, to any third party without the other Parties' prior formal approval.

Amendments and modifications to the text of this Consortium Agreement not explicitly listed in 6.3.7 (SP)/ Section 12.3.1.2 (LP) require a separate written agreement to be signed between all Parties.

### **11.5 Mandatory national law**

Nothing in this Consortium Agreement shall be deemed to require a Party to breach any mandatory statutory law under which the Party is operating.

### **11.6 Language**

This Consortium Agreement is drawn up in English, which language shall govern all documents, notices, meetings, arbitral proceedings and processes relative thereto.

### **11.7 Applicable law**

This Consortium Agreement shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of Belgium excluding its conflict of law provisions.

### **11.8 Settlement of disputes**

The Parties shall endeavour to settle their disputes amicably.

Any dispute, controversy or claim arising under, out of or relating to this contract and any subsequent amendments of this contract, including, without limitation, its formation, validity, binding effect,

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interpretation, performance, breach or termination, as well as non-contractual claims, shall be submitted to mediation in accordance with the WIPO Mediation Rules. The place of mediation shall be Brussels unless otherwise agreed upon. The language to be used in the mediation shall be English unless otherwise agreed upon.

If, and to the extent that, any such dispute, controversy or claim has not been settled pursuant to the mediation within 60 calendar days of the commencement of the mediation, the courts of Brussels shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

of Brussels.

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## 12 Signatures

### AS WITNESS:

The Parties have caused this Consortium Agreement to be duly signed by the undersigned authorised representatives in separate signature pages the day and year first above written.

### Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR)

Signature :

Name : Rosalia Santoleri

Title : CNR-ISMAR Acting Director

Date :

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**Università degli Studi di Bari "Aldo Moro" (UNIBA)**

Signature :

Name : Stefano Bronzini

Title : Rettore

Date :

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**Hellenic Centre of Marine Research (HCMR)**

Signature :

Name : Dr. Antonios N. Magoulas

Title : HCMR Director and President of the BoD

Date :

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**Net European Consulting SRLS (NetEC)**

Signature :

Name : Gallas Federico

Title :

Date :

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**ENALEIA ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIREIA (ENALEIA AMKE)**

Signature :

Name : Arapakis Eleftherios-Lampros

Title :

Date :

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**UNIVERSITA POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE (UNIVPM)**

Signature :

Name : Gregori Gian Luca

Title :

Date :

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**AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS, M.P., (CSIC)**

Signature:

Name: Moreno Fuentes Francisco Javier

Title: Vice-president for International Affairs

By Delegation from the President (Resolution published on the Spanish Official Journal dated 28/01/2021)

Date :

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**UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II (UNINA)**

Signature :

Name : De Vico Gionata

Title :

Date :

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**REGIONE PUGLIA (REGIONE PUGLIA)**

Signature :

Name : Dibitonto Caterina

Title :

Date :

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**PERIFEREIAKO TAMEIO ANAPTYKSIS PERIFEREIAS THESSALIAS (RoT)**

Signature :

Name : Chatzikamagiannis Vasileios

Title :

Date :

[LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM, GA n.: 101074547] Consortium Agreement, version [0], [31/08/2022]

**STAZIONE ZOOLOGICA ANTON DOHRN (SZN)**

Signature :

Name : Bowler Christopher

Title: President of Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn

Date :

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**FEDERAZIONE NAZIONALE DELLA IMPRESE DI PESCA (FEDERPESCA)**

Signature :

Name : Biondo Francesca

Title : Direttore

Date :

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## Attachment 1: Background included

According to the Grant Agreement (Article 16.1) Background is defined as “data, know-how or information (...) that is (...) needed to implement the Action or exploit the results”. Because of this need, Access Rights have to be granted in principle, but Parties must identify and agree amongst them on the Background for the Project. This is the purpose of this attachment.

PARTY 1

As to **CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE – CNR**, it is agreed between the Parties that, to the best of their knowledge, [insert the relevant option here].

[Option 1 start]

the following Background is hereby identified and agreed upon for the Project. Specific limitations and/or conditions, shall be as mentioned hereunder:

Describe Background	Specific restrictions and/or conditions for implementation (Article 16.4 Grant Agreement and its Annex 5, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights to background and results for implementing the Action”)	Specific restrictions and/or conditions for Exploitation (Article 16.4 Grant Agreement and its Annex 5, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights for exploiting the results”)
<p>Scientific and technical information, data and knowhow, infrastructure and assets belonging to the CNR and ISMAR’s research groups directly participating in the Project necessary for achieving the goals of the Project workplan, as specified in the Annex 1 of the GA (Description of Action).</p>	<p>CNR excludes from its obligations to grant access rights to any background of any research group, laboratory or institute of CNR not directly involved in the Project. CNR also hereby excludes specifically from its obligation to background to all data, databases, software source code, materials, not generated through the direct participation in the Project or which CNR is unable to grant Access right. All background resulting from work in cooperation with or co-funded by third parties, be it in the framework of national or international projects whose dissemination is subject to authorization by those parties, is restricted or excluded. Access Rights to CNR background is granted on a royalty-free basis only for the CrossGov project activities that are defined in the workplan. No Access Rights to source code nor object code is granted.</p>	<p>CNR excludes from its obligations to grant access rights to any background of any research group, laboratory or institute of CNR not directly involved in the Project. CNR also hereby excludes specifically from its obligation to background to all data, databases, software source code, materials, not generated through the direct participation in the Project or which CNR is unable to grant Access right. All background resulting from work in cooperation with or co-funded by third parties, be it in the framework of national or international projects whose dissemination is subject to authorization by those parties, is restricted or excluded. Access Rights to CNR background needed for exploitation is granted on fair and reasonable conditions. These conditions will be negotiated in good faith by the concerned parties during the duration of the project.</p>

This represents the status at the time of signature of this Consortium Agreement.

[Same for PARTY 2, PARTY 3, etc]

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PARTY 2

As to University of Bari Aldo Moro (UNIBA), it is agreed between the Parties that, to the best of their knowledge, [insert the relevant option here].

[Option 1 start]

the following Background is hereby identified and agreed upon for the Project. Specific limitations and/or conditions, shall be as mentioned hereunder:

Describe Background	Specific restrictions and/or conditions for implementation (Article 16.4 Grant Agreement and its Annex 5, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights to background and results for implementing the Action”)	Specific restrictions and/or conditions for Exploitation (Article 16.4 Grant Agreement and its Annex 5, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights for exploiting the results”)
<p>Scientific and technical information, data and knowhow, infrastructure and assets belonging to the UNIBA’s research groups directly participating in the Project necessary for achieving the goals of the Project workplan, as specified in the Annex 1 of the GA (Description of Action).</p>	<p>UNIBA excludes from its obligations to grant access rights to any background of any research group, laboratory or institute of UNIBA not directly involved in the Project.</p> <p>UNIBA also hereby excludes specifically from its obligation to background to all data, databases, software source code, materials, not generated through the direct participation in the Project or which UNIBA is unable to grant Access right.</p> <p>All background resulting from work in cooperation with or co-funded by third parties, be it in the framework of national or international projects whose dissemination is subject to authorization by those parties, is restricted or excluded.</p> <p>Access Rights to UNIBA background is granted on a royalty-free basis only for the CrossGov project activities that are defined in the workplan. No Access Rights to source code nor object code is granted.</p>	<p>UNIBA excludes from its obligations to grant access rights to any background of any research group, laboratory or institute of UNIBA not directly involved in the Project.</p> <p>UNIBA also hereby excludes specifically from its obligation to background to all data, databases, software source code, materials, not generated through the direct participation in the Project or which UNIBA is unable to grant Access right.</p> <p>All background resulting from work in cooperation with or co-funded by third parties, be it in the framework of national or international projects whose dissemination is subject to authorization by those parties, is restricted or excluded.</p> <p>Access Rights to UNIBA background needed for exploitation is granted on fair and reasonable conditions. These conditions will be negotiated in good faith by the concerned parties during the duration of the project.</p>

[Option 1 end]

[Option 2 start]

Option 2: No data, know-how or information of [NAME OF THE PARTY] is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights to background and results for implementing the action”) or Exploitation of that other Party’s Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement,

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Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights for exploiting the results”).

[Option 2 end]

This represents the status at the time of signature of this Consortium Agreement.

PARTY 3

As to Stazione Zoologica “Anton Dohrn” (SZN), it is agreed between the Parties that, to the best of their knowledge, [insert the relevant option here].

[Option 1 start]

the following Background is hereby identified and agreed upon for the Project. Specific limitations and/or conditions, shall be as mentioned hereunder:

Describe Background	Specific restrictions and/or conditions for implementation (Article 16.4 Grant Agreement and its Annex 5, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights to background and results for implementing the Action”)	Specific restrictions and/or conditions for Exploitation (Article 16.4 Grant Agreement and its Annex 5, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights for exploiting the results”)
Scientific and technical information, data and knowhow, infrastructure and assets belonging to the SZN’s research groups directly participating in the Project necessary for achieving the goals of the Project workplan, as specified in the Annex 1 of the GA (Description of Action).	SZN excludes from its obligations to grant access rights to any background of any research group, laboratory or institute of SZN not directly involved in the Project. SZN also hereby excludes specifically from its obligation to background to all data, databases, software source code, materials, not generated through the direct participation in the Project or which SZN is unable to grant Access right. All background resulting from work in cooperation with or co-funded by third parties, be it in the framework of national or international projects whose dissemination is subject to authorization by those parties, is restricted or excluded. Access Rights to SZN background is granted on a royalty-free basis only for the CrossGov project activities that are defined in the workplan. No Access Rights to source code nor object code is granted.	SZN excludes from its obligations to grant access rights to any background of any research group, laboratory or institute of SZN not directly involved in the Project. SZN also hereby excludes specifically from its obligation to background to all data, databases, software source code, materials, not generated through the direct participation in the Project or which SZN is unable to grant Access right. All background resulting from work in cooperation with or co-funded by third parties, be it in the framework of national or international projects whose dissemination is subject to authorization by those parties, is restricted or excluded. Access Rights to SZN background needed for exploitation is granted on fair and reasonable conditions. These conditions will be negotiated in good faith by the concerned parties during the duration of the project.

[Option 1 end]

[Option 2 start]

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Option 2: No data, know-how or information of Stazione Zoologica "Anton Dohrn" (SZN) is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights to background and results for implementing the action") or Exploitation of that other Party's Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights for exploiting the results").

[Option 2 end]

This represents the status at the time of signature of this Consortium Agreement.

[Same for PARTY 4, PARTY 5 etc]

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## Attachment 2: Accession document

ACCESSION

of a new Party to

[Acronym of the Project] Consortium Agreement, version [..., YYYY-MM-DD]

[OFFICIAL NAME OF THE NEW PARTY AS IDENTIFIED IN THE Grant Agreement]

hereby consents to become a Party to the Consortium Agreement identified above and accepts all the rights and obligations of a Party starting [date].

[OFFICIAL NAME OF THE COORDINATOR AS IDENTIFIED IN THE Grant Agreement]

hereby certifies that the consortium has accepted in the meeting held on [date] the accession of [the name of the new Party] to the consortium starting [date].

This Accession document has been done in 2 originals to be duly signed by the undersigned authorised representatives.

[Date and Place]

[INSERT NAME OF THE NEW PARTY]

Signature(s)

Name(s)

Title(s)

[Date and Place]

[INSERT NAME OF THE COORDINATOR]

Signature(s)

Name(s)

Title(s)

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**Attachment 3: List of third parties for simplified transfer according to Section 8.3.2.**

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**[Option: Attachment 4: Identified entities under the same control  
according to Section 9.5]**

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**[Option: Attachment 5: NDA for External Expert Advisory Board  
agreed under Section 6]**

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## [Option: Module GOV LP]

### Governance structure for Medium and Large Projects

[To use the following paragraphs it is recommended to do as follows: (1) Select all the flowing clauses, (2) use Ctrl+X to cut the text (it will be stored in a clipboard), (3) select all clauses in section 13.1 to 13.7 including that section header, and (4) use Ctrl+P to insert. Using this process preserves cross references. These may need to be refreshed/updated]

### 12.1 General structure

The organisational structure of the consortium shall comprise the following Consortium Bodies:

- The Steering Committee as the ultimate decision-making body of the consortium
- The Executive Board as the supervisory body for the execution of the Project, which shall report to and be accountable to the General Assembly
- The Coordinator as the legal entity acting as the intermediary between the Parties and the Granting Authority. The Coordinator shall, in addition to its responsibilities as a Party, perform the tasks assigned to it as described in the Grant Agreement and this Consortium Agreement.

### 12.2 General operational procedures for all Consortium Bodies

#### 12.2.1 Representation in meetings

Any Party which is appointed to take part in a Consortium Body shall designate one representative (hereinafter referred to as "Member").

Any Member:

- should be present or represented at any meeting;
- may appoint a substitute or a proxy to attend and vote at any meeting;

and shall participate in a cooperative manner in the meetings.

#### 12.2.2 Preparation and organisation of meetings

##### 12.2.2.1 Convening meetings:

The chairperson of a Consortium Body shall convene meetings of that Consortium Body.

	Ordinary meeting	Extraordinary meeting
General Assembly	At least <b>once</b> a year	At any time upon request of the Executive Board or 1/3 of the Members of the General Assembly
Executive Board	At least <b>quarterly</b>	At any time upon request of any Member of the Executive Board

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#### 12.2.2.2 Notice of a meeting

The chairperson of a Consortium Body shall give written notice of a meeting to each Member of that Consortium Body as soon as possible and no later than the minimum number of days preceding the meeting as indicated below.

	Ordinary meeting	Extraordinary meeting
General Assembly	45 calendar days	15 calendar days
Executive Board	14 calendar days	7 calendar days

#### 12.2.2.3 Sending the agenda

The chairperson of a Consortium Body shall prepare and send each Member of that Consortium Body an agenda no later than the minimum number of days preceding the meeting as indicated below.

General Assembly	21 calendar days, 10 calendar days for an extraordinary meeting
Executive Board	7 calendar days

#### 12.2.2.4 Adding agenda items:

Any agenda item requiring a decision by the Members of a Consortium Body must be identified as such on the agenda.

Any Member of a Consortium Body may add an item to the original agenda by written notice to all of the other Members of that Consortium Body up to the minimum number of days preceding the meeting as indicated below.

General Assembly	14 calendar days, 7 calendar days for an extraordinary meeting
Executive Board	2 calendar days

#### 12.2.2.5

During a meeting the Members of a Consortium Body present or represented can unanimously agree to add a new item to the original agenda.

#### 12.2.2.6

Meetings of each Consortium Body may also be held by tele- or videoconference, or other telecommunication means.

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#### 12.2.2.7

Decisions will only be binding once the relevant part of the minutes has been accepted according to Section 13.2.5.2.

#### 12.2.2.8

##### *Decisions without a meeting*

Any decision may also be taken without a meeting if

- a) the Coordinator circulates to all Members of the Steering Committee a suggested decision with a deadline for responses of at least **10** calendar days after receipt by a Party and
- b) the decision is agreed by 51 % of all Parties.

The Coordinator shall inform all the Parties of the outcome of the vote.

A veto according to Section 13.2.5 may be submitted up to **15** calendar days after receipt of this information.

The decision will be binding after the Coordinator sends a notification to all Members. The Coordinator will keep records of the votes and make them available to the Parties on request.

### **12.2.3 Voting rules and quorum**

#### 12.2.3.1

Each Consortium Body shall not deliberate and decide validly in meetings unless two-thirds (2/3) of its Members are present or represented (quorum).

If the quorum is not reached, the chairperson of the Consortium Body shall convene another ordinary meeting within 15 calendar days. If in this meeting the quorum is not reached once more, the chairperson shall convene an extraordinary meeting which shall be entitled to decide even if less than the quorum of Members is present or represented.

#### 12.2.3.2

Each Member of a Consortium Body present or represented in the meeting shall have one vote.

#### 12.2.3.3

A Party which the Steering Committee has declared according to Section 4.2 to be a Defaulting Party may not vote.

#### 12.2.3.4

Decisions shall be taken by a majority of **two-thirds (2/3)** of the votes cast.

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#### **12.2.4 Veto rights**

##### 12.2.4.1

A Party which can show that its own work, time for performance, costs, liabilities, intellectual property rights or other legitimate interests would be severely affected by a decision of a Consortium Body may exercise a veto with respect to the corresponding decision or relevant part of the decision.

##### 12.2.4.2

When the decision is foreseen on the original agenda, a Party may only veto such a decision during the meeting.

##### 12.2.4.3

When a decision has been taken on a new item added to the agenda before or during the meeting, a Party may veto such decision during the meeting or within 15 calendar days after receipt of the draft minutes of the meeting.

A Party that is not appointed to participate to a particular Consortium Body may veto a decision within the same number of calendar days after receipt of the draft minutes of the meeting.

##### 12.2.4.4

When a decision has been taken without a meeting a Party may veto such decision within 15 calendar days after written notice by the chairperson of the outcome of the vote.

##### 12.2.4.5

In case of exercise of veto, the Members of the related Consortium Body shall make every effort to resolve the matter which occasioned the veto to the general satisfaction of all the Parties.

##### 12.2.4.6

A Party may neither veto decisions relating to its identification to be in breach of its obligations nor to its identification as a Defaulting Party. The Defaulting Party may not veto decisions relating to its participation and termination in the consortium or the consequences of them.

##### 12.2.4.7

A Party requesting to leave the consortium may not veto decisions relating thereto.

#### **12.2.5 Minutes of meetings**

##### 12.2.5.1

The chairperson of a Consortium Body shall produce minutes of each meeting which shall be the formal record of all decisions taken. He/she shall send the draft minutes to all Members within **10** calendar days of the meeting.

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#### 12.2.5.2

The minutes shall be considered as accepted if, within 15 calendar days from receipt, no Member has sent an objection by written notice to the chairperson with respect to the accuracy of the draft of the minutes by written notice.

#### 12.2.5.3

The chairperson shall send the accepted minutes to all the Parties and to the Coordinator, who shall retain copies of them.

### 12.3 Specific operational procedures for the Consortium Bodies

#### 12.3.1 General Assembly

In addition to the rules described in Section 13.2, the following rules apply:

##### 12.3.1.1 Members

###### 12.3.1.1.1

The Steering Committee shall consist of one representative of each Party (hereinafter Steering Committee Member).

###### 12.3.1.1.2

Each Steering Committee Member shall be deemed to be duly authorised to deliberate, negotiate and decide on all matters listed in Section 13.3.1.2. of this Consortium Agreement.

###### 12.3.1.1.3

The Coordinator shall chair all meetings of the General Assembly, unless decided otherwise in a meeting of the General Assembly.

###### 12.3.1.1.4

The Parties agree to abide by all decisions of the General Assembly. This does not prevent the Parties from exercising their veto rights, according to Section 13.2.4.1, or from submitting a dispute to resolution in accordance with the provisions of Settlement of disputes in Section 11.8.

##### 12.3.1.2 Decisions

The Steering Committee shall be free to act on its own initiative to formulate proposals and take decisions in accordance with the procedures set out herein.

In addition, all proposals made by the Executive Board shall also be considered and decided upon by the General Assembly.

The following decisions shall be taken by the General Assembly:

Content, finances and intellectual property rights

- Proposals for changes to Annexes 1 and 2 of the Grant Agreement to be agreed by the Granting Authority

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- Changes to the Consortium Plan
- Modifications or withdrawal of Background in Attachment 1 (Background Included)
- Additions to Attachment 3 (List of Third Parties for simplified transfer according to Section 8.3.2)
- [Additions to Attachment 4 (Identified entities under the same control)]

#### Evolution of the consortium

- Entry of a new Party to the Project and approval of the settlement on the conditions of the accession of such a new Party
- Withdrawal of a Party from the Project and the approval of the settlement on the conditions of the withdrawal
- Identification of a breach by a Party of its obligations under this Consortium Agreement or the Grant Agreement
- Declaration of a Party to be a Defaulting Party
- Remedies to be performed by a Defaulting Party
- Termination of a Defaulting Party's participation in the Project and measures relating thereto
- Proposal to the Granting Authority for a change of the Coordinator
- Proposal to the Granting Authority for suspension of all or part of the Project
- Proposal to the Granting Authority for termination of the Project and the Consortium Agreement

#### Appointments

On the basis of the Grant Agreement, the appointment if necessary of:

- Executive Board Members
- External Expert Advisory Board Members

#### 12.3.2 Executive Board

In addition to the rules in Section 13.2, the following rules shall apply:

##### 12.3.2.1 Members

The Executive Board shall consist of the Coordinator and the representatives of the Parties appointed to it by the General Assembly.

The **Coordinator** shall chair all meetings of the Executive Board, unless decided otherwise by a majority of two-thirds.

##### 12.3.2.2 Minutes of meetings

Minutes of Executive Board meetings, once accepted, shall be sent by the Coordinator to the Steering Committee Members for information.

##### 12.3.2.3 Tasks

###### 12.3.2.3.1

The Executive Board shall prepare the meetings, propose decisions and prepare the agenda of the Steering Committee according to Section 13.3.1.2.

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#### 12.3.2.3.2

The Executive Board shall seek a consensus among the Parties.

#### 12.3.2.3.3

The Executive Board shall be responsible for the proper execution and implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly.

#### 12.3.2.3.4

The Executive Board shall monitor the effective and efficient implementation of the Project.

#### 12.3.2.3.5

In addition, the Executive Board shall collect information at least every 6 months on the progress of the Project, examine that information to assess the compliance of the Project with the Consortium Plan and, if necessary, propose modifications of the Consortium Plan to the General Assembly.

#### 12.3.2.3.6

The Executive Board shall:

- support the Coordinator in preparing meetings with the Granting Authority and in preparing related data and deliverables
- prepare the content and timing of press releases and joint publications by the consortium or proposed by the Granting Authority in respect of the procedures of the Grant Agreement Article 17 and Annex 5 Section “Communication, Dissemination, Open Science and Visibility” and of Section 8 of this Consortium Agreement.

#### 12.3.2.3.7

In the case of abolished tasks as a result of a decision of the General Assembly, the Executive Board shall advise the Steering Committee on ways to rearrange tasks and budgets of the Parties concerned. Such rearrangement shall take into consideration any prior legitimate commitments which cannot be cancelled.

## 12.4 Coordinator

### 12.4.1

The Coordinator shall be the intermediary between the Parties and the Granting Authority and shall perform all tasks assigned to it as described in the Grant Agreement and in this Consortium Agreement.

### 12.4.2

In particular, the Coordinator shall be responsible for:

- monitoring compliance by the Parties with their obligations under this Consortium Agreement and the Grant Agreement
- keeping the address list of Members and other contact persons updated and available

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- collecting, reviewing to verify consistency and submitting reports, other deliverables (including financial statements and related certifications) and specific requested documents to the Granting Authority
- transmitting documents and information connected with the Project to any other Parties concerned
- administering the financial contribution of the Granting Authority and fulfilling the financial tasks described in Section 7.2
- providing, upon request, the Parties with official copies or originals of documents that are in the sole possession of the Coordinator when such copies or originals are necessary for the Parties to present claims.

If one or more of the Parties is late in submission of any Project deliverable, the Coordinator may nevertheless submit the other 'Parties' Project deliverables and all other documents required by the Grant Agreement to the Granting Authority in time.

#### 12.4.3

If the Coordinator fails in its coordination tasks, the Steering Committee may propose to the Granting Authority to change the Coordinator.

#### 12.4.4

The Coordinator shall not be entitled to act or to make legally binding declarations on behalf of any other Party or of the consortium, unless explicitly stated otherwise in the Grant Agreement or this Consortium Agreement.

#### 12.4.5

The Coordinator shall not enlarge its role beyond the tasks specified in this Consortium Agreement and in the Grant Agreement.

### **[Optional, where foreseen in the Grant Agreement or otherwise decided by the consortium: External Expert Advisory Board (EEAB)]**

An External Expert Advisory Board (EEAB) will be appointed and steered by the Executive Board. The EEAB shall assist and facilitate the decisions made by the General Assembly.

The Coordinator will ensure that a non-disclosure agreement is executed between all Parties and each EEAB member.

[Optional: By way of exception to Section 13.4.4 above, the Parties mandate the Coordinator to execute, in their name and on their behalf, a non-disclosure agreement (hereafter "NDA") with each member of the EEAB, in order to protect Confidential Information disclosed by any of the Parties to any member of the EEAB, either directly or through the Coordinator in the case where the concerned Party gave to the Coordinator its prior written approval for such disclosure. The NDA for the EEAB members is enclosed in Attachment 5. The mandate of the Coordinator comprises solely the execution of the NDA in Attachment 5.]

Its terms shall be not less stringent than those stipulated in this Consortium Agreement, and it shall be concluded no later than 30 calendar days after their nomination or before any confidential information will be exchanged/disclosed, whichever date is earlier. The Coordinator shall write the minutes of the

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EEAB meetings and submit them to the General Assembly. The EEAB members shall be allowed to participate in Steering Committee meetings upon invitation but have not any voting rights.]

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## **[Option: MODULE IPR SC] Specific Software provisions for the Access Rights Section 9.8**

[To use the following paragraphs it is recommended to do as follows: (1) Select all the flowing clauses, (2) use Ctrl+X to cut the text (it will be stored in a clipboard), (3) select all clauses in section 9.8, including that section header, and (4) use Ctrl+P to insert. Using this process preserves cross references. These may need to be refreshed/updated]

### **12.6 Specific provisions for Access Rights to Software**

#### **12.6.1 Definitions relating to Software**

“Application Programming Interface” or “API”

means the application programming interface materials and related documentation containing all data and information to allow skilled Software developers to create Software interfaces that interface or interact with other specified Software.

“Controlled License Terms” means terms in any license that require that the use, copying, modification and/or distribution of Software or another work (“Work”) and/or of any work that is a modified version of or is a derivative work of such Work (in each case, “Derivative Work”) be subject, in whole or in part, to one or more of the following:

- a) (where the Work or Derivative Work is Software) that the Source Code or other formats preferred for modification be made available as of right to any third party on request, whether royalty-free or not;
- b) that permission to create modified versions or derivative works of the Work or Derivative Work be granted to any third party;
- c) that a royalty-free license relating to the Work or Derivative Work be granted to any third party.

For the avoidance of doubt, any Software license that merely permits (but does not require any of the things mentioned in (a) to (c) is not under Controlled License Terms.

“Object Code” means Software in machine-readable, compiled and/or executable form including, but not limited to, byte code form and in form of machine-readable libraries used for linking procedures and functions to other software.

“Software Documentation” means Software information, being technical information used, or useful in, or relating to the design, development, use or maintenance of any version of a Software programme.

“Source Code” means Software in human readable form normally used to make modifications to it including, but not limited to, comments and procedural code such as job control language and scripts to control compilation and installation.

#### **12.6.2 General principles**

For the avoidance of doubt, the general provisions for Access Rights provided for in this Section 9 are applicable also to Software as far as not modified by this Section 13.6.

Parties’ Access Rights to Software do not include any right to receive Source Code or Object Code ported to a certain hardware platform or any right to receive Source Code, Object Code or respective

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Software Documentation in any particular form or detail, but only as available from the Party granting the Access Rights.

The introduction of Software under Controlled License Terms in the Project requires the prior approval of the Steering Committee to implement such introduction into the Consortium Plan.

[Option] In case of an [approved] introduction of Software under Controlled License Terms' in the Project, the Controlled License Terms shall prevail over any conflicting provisions of this Consortium Agreement for affected original and derivative Background and Results.

### 12.6.3 Access to Software

Access Rights to Software that is Results shall comprise:

- Access Rights to the Object Code; and,
- where normal use of such an Object Code requires an API, Access Rights to the Object Code and such an API; and,
- if a Party can show that the execution of its tasks under the Project or the Exploitation of its own Results is technically or legally impossible without Access Rights to the Source Code, Access Rights to the Source Code to the extent necessary.

Background shall only be provided in Object Code unless otherwise agreed between the Parties concerned.

### 12.6.4 Software license and sublicensing rights

#### 12.6.4.1 Object Code

##### 12.6.4.1.1 Results - Rights of a Party

Where a Party has Access Rights to Object Code and/or API that is Results for Exploitation, such Access shall, in addition to the Access for Exploitation foreseen in Section 9.4, as far as Needed for the Exploitation of the Party's own Results, comprise the right:

- to make an agreed number of copies of Object Code and API; and
- to distribute, make available, market, sell and offer for sale such Object Code and API **alone or** as part of or in connection with products or services of the Party having the Access Rights;

provided however that any product, process or service has been developed by the Party having the Access Rights in accordance with its rights to exploit Object Code and API for its own Results.

If it is intended to use the services of a third party for the purposes of this Section 12.6.4.1.1, the Parties concerned shall agree on the terms thereof with due observance of the interests of the Party granting the Access Rights as set out in Section 13.2 of this Consortium Agreement.

##### 12.6.4.1.2 Results - Rights to grant sublicenses to end-users

In addition, Access Rights to Object Code shall, as far as Needed for the Exploitation of the Party's own Results, comprise the right to grant in the normal course of the relevant trade to end-user customers buying/using the product/services, a sublicense to the extent as necessary for the normal use of the relevant product or service to use the Object Code **alone or** as part of or in connection with or integrated into products and services of the Party having the Access Rights and, as far as technically essential:

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- to maintain such product/service;
- to create for its own end-use interacting interoperable Software in accordance with the Directive 2009/24/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the legal protection of computer programs.

#### 12.6.4.1.3 Background

For the avoidance of doubt, where a Party has Access Rights to Object Code and/or API that is Background for Exploitation, Access Rights exclude the right to sublicense. Such sublicensing rights may, however, be negotiated between the Parties.

### 12.6.4.2 Source Code

#### 12.6.4.2.1 Results - Rights of a Party

Where, in accordance with Section 13.6.3, a Party has Access Rights to Source Code that is Results for Exploitation, Access Rights to such Source Code, as far as Needed for the Exploitation of the Party's own Results, shall comprise a worldwide right to use, to make copies, to modify, to develop, to adapt Source Code for research, to create/market a product/process and to create/provide a service.

If it is intended to use the services of a third party for the purposes of this Section 13.6.4.2.1, the Parties shall agree on the terms thereof, with due observance of the interests of the Party granting the Access Rights as set out in Section 9.2 of this Consortium Agreement.

#### 12.6.4.2.2 Results – Rights to grant sublicenses to end-users

In addition, Access Rights, as far as Needed for the Exploitation of the Party's own Results, shall comprise the right to sublicense such Source Code, but solely for purpose of adaptation, error correction, maintenance and/or support of the Software.

Further sublicensing of Source Code is explicitly excluded.

#### 12.6.4.2.3 Background

For the avoidance of doubt, where a Party has Access Rights to Source Code that is Background for Exploitation, Access Rights exclude the right to sublicense. Such sublicensing rights may, however, be negotiated between the Parties.

### 12.6.5 Specific formalities

Each sublicense granted according to the provisions of Section 13.6.4 shall be made by a traceable agreement specifying and protecting the proprietary rights of the Party or Parties concerned.

Caterina Dibitonto  
18.11.2022 10:29:54  
GMT+01:00



*Allegato E/I*

Allegato n. 8/1  
al D.Lgs 118/2011

**Allegato delibera di variazione del bilancio riportante i dati d'interesse del Tesoriere**

data: .../.../..... n. protocollo .....

Rif. delibera del .... Organo ... del ... ..n. ....

**SPESE**

MISSIONE	PROGRAMMA, TITOLO	DENOMINAZIONE	PREVISIONI AGGIORNATE ALLA PRECEDENTE VARIAZIONE - DELIBERA N. .... - ESERCIZIO 2022 (*)	VARIAZIONI		PREVISIONI AGGIORNATE ALLA DELIBERA IN OGGETTO - ESERCIZIO 2022 (*)
				in aumento	in diminuzione	
19	Relazioni internazionali					
2	Cooperazione territoriale					
1	Spese correnti		residui presunti previsione di competenza previsione di cassa	6.787,61 6.787,61		
2	Cooperazione territoriale		residui presunti previsione di competenza previsione di cassa	6.787,61 6.787,61		
19	Relazioni internazionali		residui presunti previsione di competenza previsione di cassa	6.787,61 6.787,61		
<b>TOTALE VARIAZIONI IN USCITA</b>				6.787,61 6.787,61		
<b>TOTALE GENERALE DELLE USCITE</b>				6.787,61 6.787,61		

(\*) La compilazione della colonna può essere rinviata, dopo l'approvazione della delibera di variazione di bilancio, a cura del responsabile finanziario.

**ENTRATE**

TITOLO, TIPOLOGIA	DENOMINAZIONE	PREVISIONI AGGIORNATE ALLA PRECEDENTE	VARIAZIONI	PREVISIONI AGGIORNATE ALLA DELIBERA IN OGGETTO

*Allegato E/I*

Allegato n. 8/1  
al D.Lgs 118/2011

**Allegato delibera di variazione del bilancio riportante i dati d'interesse del Tesoriere**

data: .../.../..... n. protocollo .....

Rif. delibera del .... Organo ... del ... ..n. ....

TITOLO Tipologia	2 trasferimenti correnti 101 Trasferimenti correnti da Amministrazioni pubbliche	residui presunti previsione di competenza previsione di cassa	VARIAZIONE - DELIBERA		- ESERCIZIO 2022 (*)
			N. .... - ESERCIZIO 2022 (*)	in diminuzione in aumento	
TOTALE TITOLO	2 trasferimenti correnti	residui presunti previsione di competenza previsione di cassa	6.787,61 6.787,61	6.787,61 6.787,61	
TOTALE VARIAZIONI IN ENTRATA		residui presunti previsione di competenza previsione di cassa	6.787,61 6.787,61	6.787,61 6.787,61	
TOTALE GENERALE DELLE ENTRATE		residui presunti previsione di competenza previsione di cassa	6.787,61 6.787,61	6.787,61 6.787,61	

(\*) La compilazione della colonna può essere rinviata, dopo l'approvazione della delibera di variazione di bilancio, a cura del responsabile finanziario.

TIMBRO E FIRMA DELL'ENTE

Responsabile del Servizio Finanziario / Dirigente responsabile della spesa



**REGIONE PUGLIA**  
**SEZIONE BILANCIO RAGIONERIA PARERE DI REGOLARITA' CONTABILE**  
(D. Lgs. n. 118/11 e s.m.i.)

UFFICIO	TIPO	ANNO	NUMERO	DATA
AST	DEL	2022	47	28.11.2022

"LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE DREAM. PRESA D'ATTO". - VARIAZIONE AL BILANCIO DI PREVISIONE 2022 E PLURIENNALE 2022-2024, AL DOCUMENTO TECNICO DI ACCOMPAGNAMENTO ED AL BILANCIO FINANZIARIO GESTIONALE 2022-2024, AI SENSI DELL'ART. 51 COMMA 2 DEL D. LGS. N. 118/2011 E SS.MM.II.". AUTORIZZAZIONE MISSIONI ALL'ESTERO.

**Si esprime: PARERE DI REGOLARITA'CONTABILE POSITIVO**  
**LR 28/2001 art. 79 Comma 5**

**Responsabile del Procedimento**

**PO - PAOLINO GUARINI**

Firmato digitalmente da:  
PAOLINO GUARINI  
Regione Puglia  
Firmato il: 28.11.2022 13:27:16  
SerialNumber: 826575  
Valido dal 01.04.2003 al 31.04.2023

Firmato digitalmente da  
**D:**  
**NICOLA PALADINO**  
DR. NICOLA PALADINO  
SerialNumber =  
TINI:  
C = IT

