BLUEWAVES CANVAS

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TWO COASTS, ONE SEA

Brief description of our research

MAPA, funded by the Interreg Italy-Croatia programme, aims to strengthen three Marine Protected Areas - Conero Park and Foce Trigno (Italy), and Silba Island (Croatia) - in order to improve marine biodiversity, water quality and sustainable resource management, while reconciling environmental protection with the principles of the Blue Economy. Our civic monitoring focuses on the role of ARPA Molise as the Italian project partner.

<u>Keywords</u>
Sustainability
Cooperation
ARPA Molise
Marine protected areas
Blue economy

Contextual information

- Programme: Interreg VA Italy-Croatia 2021-2027
- Priority axis: 2 - Green and resilient shared environment
- Specific objective: SO 2.2 - Protection of nature and biodiversity
- Start date: February 1, 2024 - End date: July 31, 2026
- Duration: 30 months
- Total budget: €1,402,920.00
- Lead Partner: Zadar County Rural Development Agency (AGRRA) - Croatia
- Molise partners: ARPA Molise
- The Three Marine Protected Areas involved in MAPA:
  Foce Trigno (Molise, Italy) (our monitoring area)
  Conero Park (Marche, Italy), Silba Island (Croatia)
- Background and Relevant Data

Only 3.4% of the Adriatic Sea is currently protected

Chosen project and theme

MAPA – Marine Adriatic Parks focuses on the protection of marine biodiversity and the sustainable management of Adriatic Sea resources through a shared network of Marine Protected Areas between Italy and Croatia.

Experts on the theme to be involved

- ARPA Molise
- University of Molise
- Municipality of Termoli
- Molise Region
- Local community members and economic operators
- Representative of the Termoli Coast Guard
- Artisanal fishers with decades of experience
- Tour operators
- Environmental and tourist guides

Communication format and involvement strategy

The research will be communicated through social media channels, photos and videos, field reports, interviews with experts and a final video-documentary. Civic monitoring activities, regular public updates, and direct engagement with citizens aim to ensure transparency, raise awareness and encourage active community participation.

Additional research

Additional research methods include interviews with experts and local stakeholders, surveys and questionnaires addressed to citizens and fishers and participatory monitoring activities carried out during field visits such as coastal mapping with citizens. These tools support the collection of qualitative and quantitative data related to the project's objectives.

Value for the community

Civic monitoring creates value for the local community by making ARPA Molise's environmental data accessible to citizens. It supports sustainable fishing and tourism practices and empowers citizens to become active ambassadors for the protection of the Adriatic Sea.