



Ca' Foscari University of Venice

PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE: ECOSS - ECOlogical observing System in the Adriatic Sea: oceanographic observations for biodiversity

FUNDING PROGRAMME: INTERREG ITALIA – CROAZIA 2014-2020

CALL: Call 2017 Standard

SCIENTIFIC FIELDS: Environment and cultural heritage

HOST DEPARTMENTS: Department of Environmental Sciences, Informatics and Statistics, Ca' Foscari University Venice

SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBLE: Gabriella Buffa

FINANCIAL DATA:

Project total costs	Overall funding assigned to UNIVE
€ 3.390.551,05	€ 105.001,35

ABSTRACT:

The Adriatic Sea calls for cross border actions in the field of preservation of ecosystem and biodiversity, one of the main territorial challenges. The whole area is under the influence of climate change and pollution that requires for joint, systemic and integrated management of coastal and marine resources that could be enhanced only adopting a cross-border approach. Challenges related to the health and function of the marine ecosystem needs an innovative integration of ecological and oceanographic research with conservation programmes, across a wide range of temporal and spatial scales, linking and integrating the coastal and the offshore areas. A collaborative effort at transnational level is necessary to align the present ocean observing capacities, foster sustainability of marine-related policies, narrow existing technological gaps and sustain the training of the new generation of marine scientists and operators. ECOSS overall objective is the establishment of the ECOlogical observing system in the Adriatic Sea (ECOAdS), shared between Italy and Croatia, able to integrate ecological and oceanographic research and monitoring with Natura 2000 conservation strategies. Building on the facilities, infrastructures and long term ecological data existing in the Programme area and developing specific case studies, ECOSS will enhance the marine observational capacities for improving the conservation status and the expansion of the marine component of Natura 2000 network. The synergies and feedbacks among the main conservation management questions, ecological variables and key oceanographic processes will be assessed, basing on the connectivity among habitats and species in coastal and offshore waters. For the first time in the area, the holistic view of marine ecosystem health, at the base of the MSFD, will be merged with the traditional nature conservation approach, evidencing and developing the interconnections and synergies among the MSFD and H&BD. ECOSS will activate, develop and stabilize a process of Public Engagement so that all the societal actors (researchers, citizens, policy makers, business, third sector organisations, etc.) work together during the whole process in order to better align the project outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of society. ECOSS will develop, building on the existing ICT facilities, a robust data management infrastructure, following the principles of open science, facilitating access to the results and maximizing the re-use and the transferability of project outputs. ECOSS will realize a permanent and stable partnership among different actors in the science-society-policy context, thus producing a real joint management of ecosystem, biodiversity, services and resources that will be crucial for identifying and addressing environmental problems and proper adaptive solutions.

Planned Start date**1st July 2018****Planned End date****31st December 2020****PARTNERSHIP:**

1 National Research Council	Rome (IT)	Coordinator
2 National Institute Of Oceanography And Experimental Geophysics - OGS	Trieste (IT)	Partner
3 Regional Agency For Prevention, Environment and Energy in Emilia Romagna	Bologna (IT)	Partner
4 Institute Of Oceanography And Fisheries	Split (HR)	Partner
5 Po Delta Veneto Regional Park	Rovigo (IT)	Partner
6 Blue World Institute Of Marine Research And Conservation	Primorsko-Goranska (HR)	Partner
7 Public Institution For The Management Of Protected Natural Areas Of Dubrovnik-Neretva County	Dubrovnik (HR)	Partner
8 Public Institution For The Management Of Protected Areas In The County Of Split And Dalmatia "Sea And Karst"	Split (HR)	Partner
9 Shoreline	Trieste (IT)	Partner
10 Ca' Foscari University Venice	Venice (IT)	Partner