

Project co-financed by the European Union (DG MARE)



ADRIPLAN

ADRIatic Ionian maritime spatial PLANning

Towards a commonly - agreed
cross border MSP in the
Adriatic Ionian Region

www.adriplan.eu

Adriatic - Ionian Maritime Spatial Planning

Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) is a “public process of analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives that are usually specified through a political process” (UNESCO)

MSP is an efficient tool to support the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the integration of different sectorial policies, facilitating at the same time the

implementation of the EUSAIR Strategy for Adriatic and Ionian Region.

In July 2014, the European Parliament and the Council adopted the Directive 2014/89/EU establishing a framework for Maritime Spatial Planning. Member States are required to develop national maritime spatial plans by 2021 and review them at least every ten years, in order to better coordinate the various activities that take place at sea, ensuring they are as efficient and sustainable as possible.



The 10 guiding principles for MSP

1. Using MSP according to area and type of activity
2. Defining objectives to guide MSP
3. Developing MSP in a transparent manner
4. Stakeholder participation
5. Coordination within Member States - simplifying decision processes
6. Ensuring the legal effect of national MSP
7. Cross-border cooperation and consultation
8. Incorporating monitoring and evaluation in the planning process.
9. Achieving coherence between terrestrial and Maritime Spatial Planning - relation with ICZM
10. A strong data and knowledge base

(Roadmap for MSP - COM(2008) 791 final)

ADRIPLAN has the objective to test a transboundary Maritime Spatial Planning in the Adriatic – Ionian Sea. The project lasts for 19 months from December 2013 to July 2015.

The study area is the Adriatic - Ionian Region considered as a whole, zooming into two focus areas, one in the Northern Adriatic Sea and the other in Southern Adriatic-Northern Ionian Sea .

Partners: 17 partners from 4 EU Member States (Croatia, Greece, Italy, Slovenia), including several coastal regions, and 17 observers from EU and non EU countries. All partners are Public Administrations: Local Administrations and Scientific Institutions.

Budget: The total project budget is 1.250.000 €, 80% funded by the European Commission – DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE).

Objectives: The ADRIPLAN project develops proposals and recommendations for an operational cross-border MSP process which:

- allows the development of different maritime activities, preventing conflicts for space allocations, while ensuring a good status of the marine ecosystems;
- provides greater confidence for investment in infrastructures and in other economic activities, responding to the peculiarities of each area;
- fully involves relevant regional and governmental bodies and other relevant stakeholders, also promoting an effective cross-border cooperation;
- enhances coherence between terrestrial and Maritime Spatial Planning, also in relation with good ICZM practices.



Identified areas in the Adriatic-Ionian Region

Vision and Objectives for MSP in the Adriatic Ionian Region

ADRIPLAN set up a Vision for the Adriatic – Ionian Seas taking into account the existing environmental and socio-economic objectives defined under the umbrella of the EU Strategy for Adriatic and Ionian Region EUSAIR and its Action Plan (COM(2014) 357 final; SWD(2014) 190 final). EUSAIR is a macro-regional strategy adopted by the

European Commission on 17 June 2014.

The main objective is to promote sustainable economic and social prosperity of the Region by improving its attractiveness, competitiveness and connectivity, while preserving the environment and ensuring healthy marine and coastal ecosystems.

In this frame, implementing MSP represents both a specific action of the plan, and an “enabling condition” for the achievement of many of the specific Strategy targets. ADRIPLAN is explicitly cited in the Action Plan as the provider of a coherent transnational approach to the spatial planning.

The Strategy is based on 4 main pillars, interdependent and which influence each other. They are listed below, together with some examples of concrete objectives requiring allocation of “marine space”.

Blue Growth: Sustainable management of fisheries and integrated control and monitoring. Development of an high quality aquaculture. New and innovative biotechnologies. Research platforms including observatory systems.

Connecting the Region: Better transport and energy connections. Support port intermodal connectivity for restoring the competitive position of North Adriatic Ports. Improving cross-border electricity connections and promoting the development of integrated energy market, also from renewable energy, enhancing the security of gas supply through diversification of sources and routes.

Marine Environment: Environmental quality is essential for underpinning human activities in the Region and for ensuring economic and social well-being. Achieving Good Ecological Status of the Adriatic Ionian Seas, enhancing the network of Marine Protected Areas and completing marine NATURA 2000 network are the main targets.

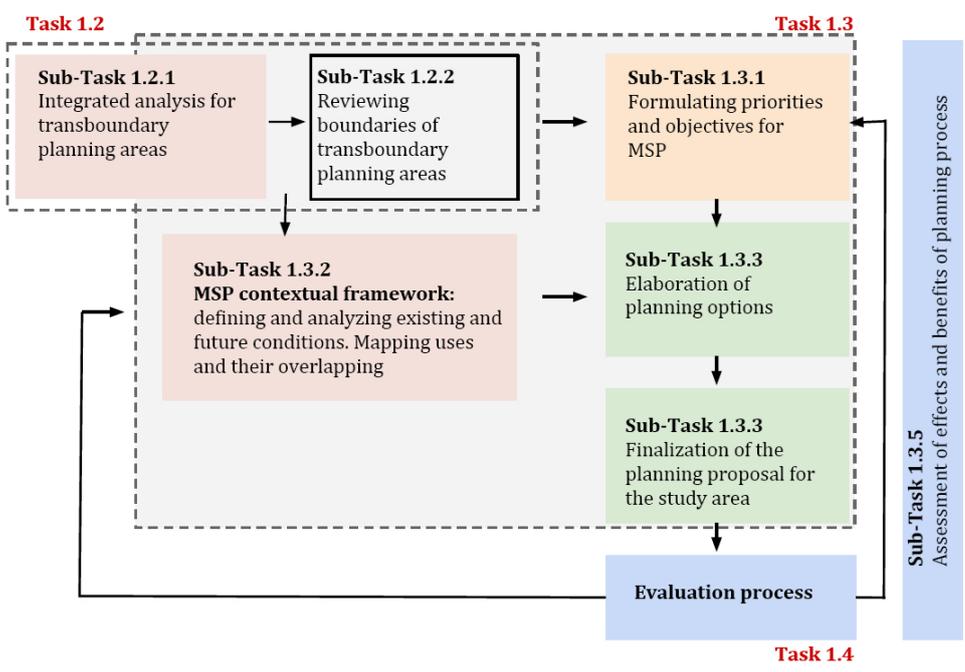
Sustainable tourism: Tourism is one of the fastest growing economic activities in the Adriatic-Ionian Region and one of the main contributors to the GDP of the area. Objectives include to promote sustainable forms of tourism, to enhance the cruise and nautical sector, designing possible alternative routes.

Building on the EUSAIR Strategy, taking into account the EU, national and regional legislation, policy and plans, ADRIPLAN identified “high level goals” and “management objectives” having implications on marine space allocation. They have been discussed with relevant national and regional stakeholders.



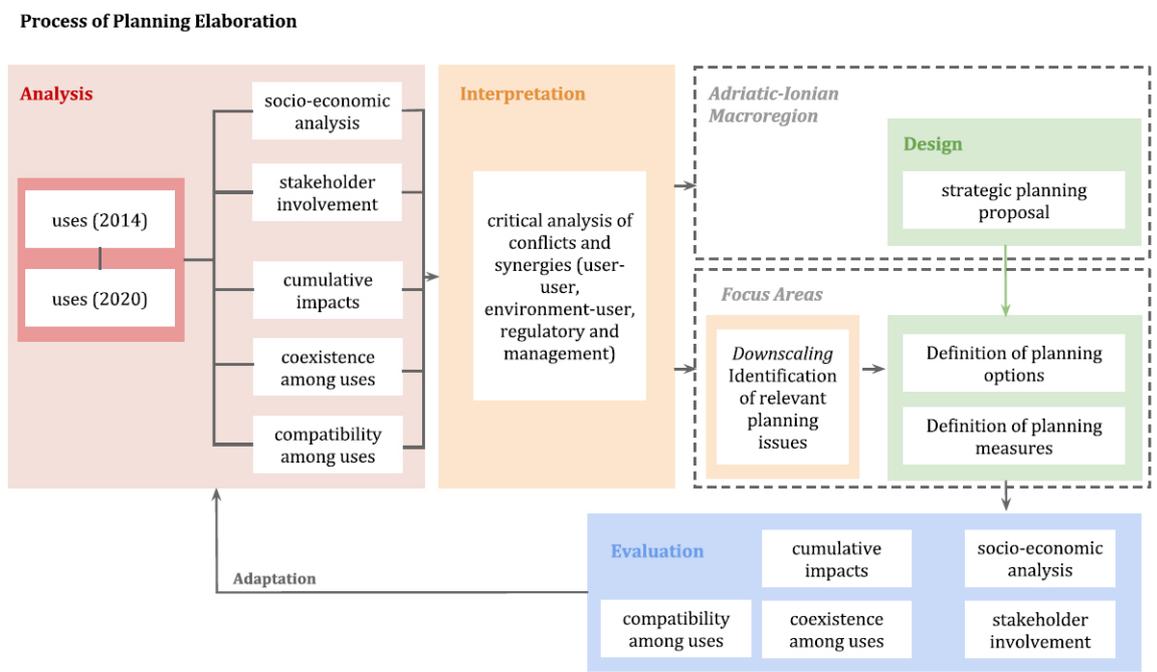
Stakeholder workshops in Strunjan, Lecce and Trieste

Methodological Framework for Cross-Border Maritime Spatial Planning



ADRIPLAN methodology follows an Ecosystem-Based Approach (EBA) and is articulated in different activities accordingly with the project proposal. In order to acquire relevant information, data and suggestions, and to achieve the task and sub-task goals, specific activities of stakeholders' involvement have been planned and conducted. Stakeholders have an active role in all the project activities.

The phases of the MSP Process



The MSP process is conceived as cyclical and adaptive. In the first phase, current and future uses are analysed, considering interactions among uses and with environmental components. Secondly, the information acquired is interpreted, also considering the indications provided by relevant stakeholders. Thirdly, two kinds of planning proposals are elaborated: a strategic, large-scale proposal for the whole Adriatic-Ionian Region and some operative planning measures ("pilot actions") for the two focus areas. Finally, guidelines for the evaluation of planning measures will be provided, in order to allow the potential redefinition of proposed actions.

A complex environment

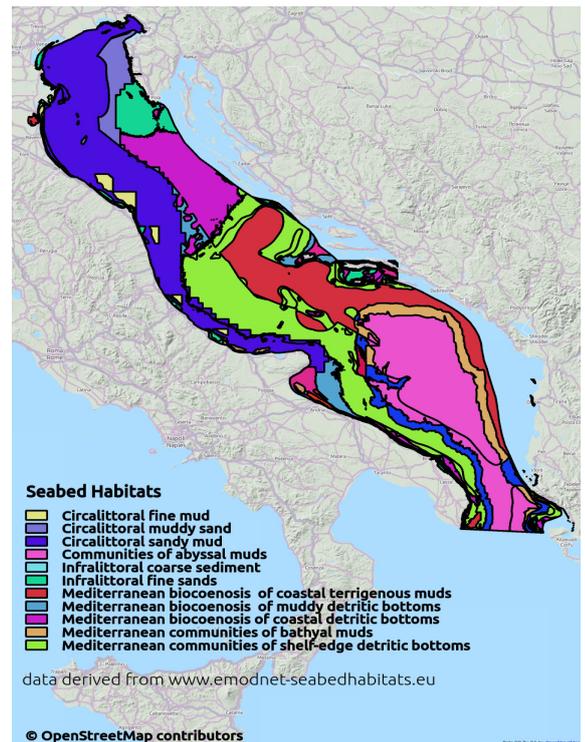
The Adriatic and North Ionian Seas enclose a large variety of marine ecosystems, driven by a complex physiography.

In fact, the northern part is the largest shelf area of the entire Mediterranean, while the southern part is characterized by the presence of a circular pit having the maximum depth of 1200 m. The Strait of Otranto (75 km width, 780 m depth) separates the Adriatic basin from the Ionian Sea, which is the deepest of the Mediterranean (5267 m).

Eastern coast is characterized by large number of islands, bays and caps with a rather steep coast, while the western coastal area is smooth with a gentle sloping bottom.

There are a number of Marine Protected Areas, as well as sensitive habitats crucial for biodiversity conservation, protected by EU and international conventions. Seasonal hypoxia and algae bloom events are reported.

In general, the macroregion presents a high vulnerability for food web integrity due to cumulative impacts of several concentrated pressures, while confined areas are at risk of contamination from hazardous substances.



Increasing maritime uses

ENERGY

Cables and pipelines: A number of gas and oil pipelines are planned for connecting the Adriatic ports to the production countries, and new cables will improve cross-border electricity connections.

LNG facilities: in addition to the existing one in Veneto, two facilities onshore in Trieste and in Rijeka are under planning.

Renewable energy facilities: currently no offshore wind plants are installed in the Region, but several projects have been proposed in Italy and Greece.

Oil and gas research & exploitation: all the Region is subjected to a growing pressure for the exploitation of hydrocarbons.

MARITIME TRANSPORT

The importance of Adriatic ports is increasing in Europe (also thanks to a collective strategy of the North Adriatic Port Association including Koper, Rijeka, Venice, Trieste). The passenger traffic attracts the 14.5% of tourists cruising in the Mediterranean.

COASTAL TOURISM

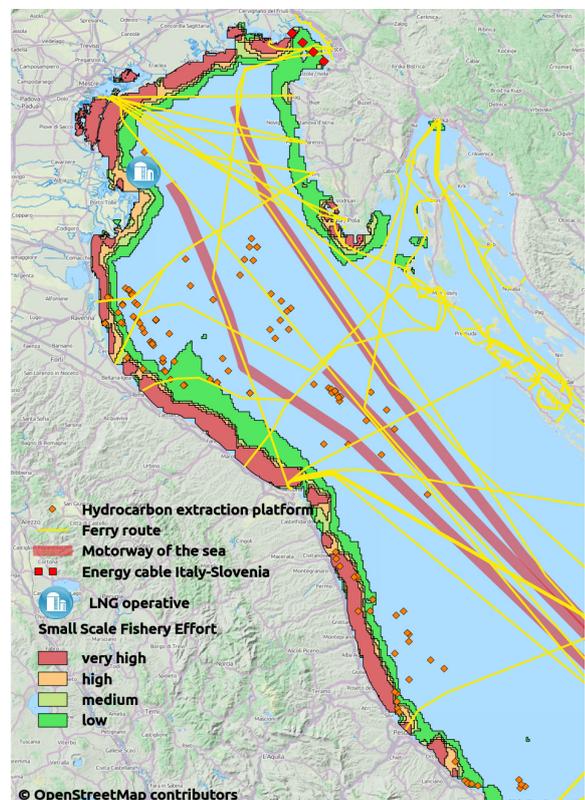
Is one of the most promising activity in the Region, due to the extended coastlines and the large number of islands. This sector increased considerably in the last decade and it is still growing.

FISHERY & AQUACULTURE

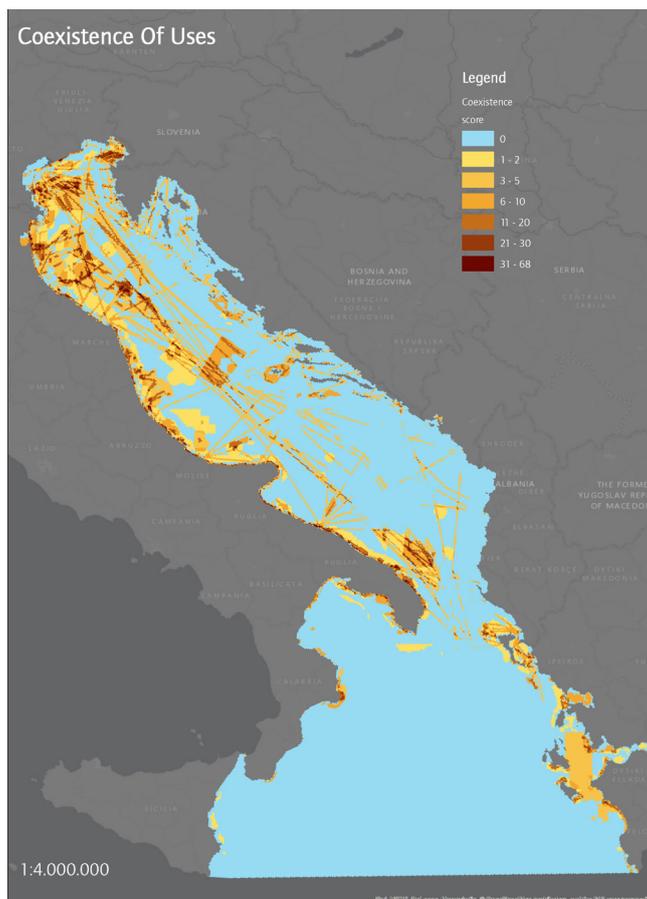
Fishing is a traditional and still important activity, while aquaculture is developing fast. At European level, fishing activities rank second in terms of total gross value added generated by maritime activities and rank third as regards employment (EUNETMAR, 2014).

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

There is a relevant number of established Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Region (EU countries), while in Montenegro and Albania they have the status of Coastal Protected Areas (CPAs). The EUSAIR strategy targets to an important extension.



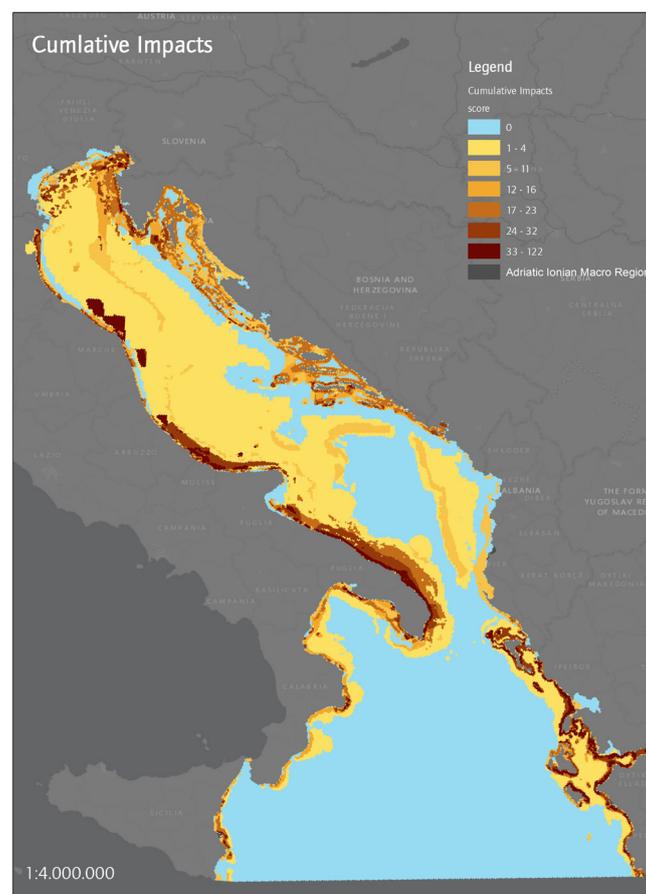
Analysis of overlapping among uses and of cumulative impacts



The analysis of overlapping maritime activities aims at identifying areas characterized by a high intensity of uses. The analysis is based on the identification of areas where the overlapping occurs, and on the characterization of different typologies of overlapping, as competition for space in time. This analysis also considers seasonality and the vertical distribution of uses (i.e. how are they distributed in the water column). The results of the analysis support the identification of conflicts and synergies among uses insisting on the macroregion and in particular on the two focus areas.

The analysis of cumulative impacts, intended as the combined impact of multiple pressures over space and time, gives an evaluation of the distribution in space and intensity of impacts from maritime activities on the identified environmental components.

This analysis is one of the pillars on which the elaboration of the planning options for the Region is based and actually implements the ecosystem based approach into the plan, as required by the MSP Directive.



Socio Economic Analysis

The socio-economic analysis is integrated into the different phases of the planning process in order to assess the impact of proposed MSP from an economic and social perspective. The main challenge of the analysis performed by ADRIPLAN is to define the socio-economic dynamics of each coastal and maritime sector in the area and establish an evaluation framework of the impact of each sector. The quantification of the value of maritime uses and activities, together with the analysis of the future trends are crucial tasks for MSP.

In order to better understand the socio-economic profile and dynamics of the maritime activities, the methodology adopted by ADRIPLAN produces a "Maritime socio economic index", which expresses the contribution of each use to the Blue economy of the Region. The evolution over time of the same maritime uses is considered, too.

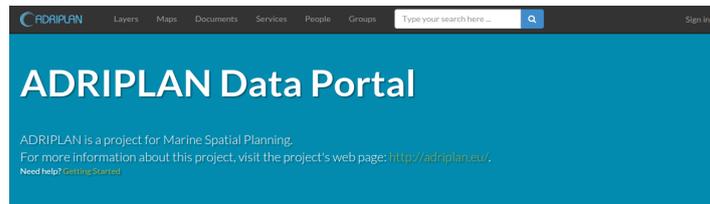
ADRIPLAN Data Portal

The web site data.adriplan.eu is the access point for all the geospatial information collected in ADRIPLAN. It allows the upload and discovery of spatial layers and documents, as well as the creation and aggregation of layers into custom maps.

It contains more than 200 spatial layers and around 70 aggregated maps, plus several layers provided as services by other projects (e.g.

SHAPE), focusing on maritime uses and environmental components related to the Adriatic-Ionian Region.

The geospatial information (data and metadata) can be visualized and downloaded, with flexible authentication and permission rules, and can be shared using the most advanced interoperable geospatial standards (CSW, WMS, WFS, WCS), within an open data policy.



270 Layers

Click to search for geospatial data published by other users, organizations and public sources. Download data in standard formats.

Explore layers +



70 Maps

Data is available for browsing, aggregating and styling to generate maps which can be shared publicly or restricted to specific users only.

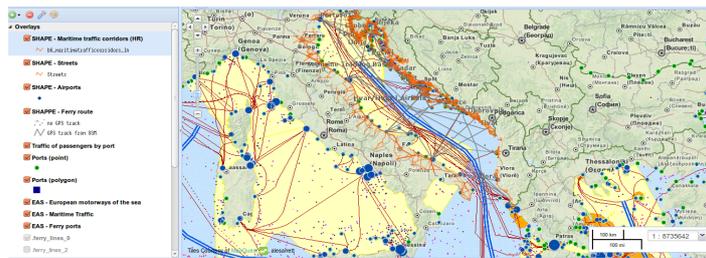
Explore maps +



62 Users

GeoNode allows registered users to easily upload geospatial data in several formats including shapefile and GeoTiff.

See users +



The portal is based on the GeoNode (geonode.org) suite and it has been built using only open source software. Two additional components have been developed in ADRIPLAN to process the data and support the analysis of overlapping among uses and

cumulative impacts. These components are integrated in the web platform and contribute to a collaborative approach to the analysis and the processing of data for MSP purposes.

Participatory Tools

ADRIPLAN involved in a continuous dialogue key stakeholders from different maritime sectors of the two sides of the Adriatic Ionian Seas, through meetings, interviews, questionnaires and workshops. The aim was to collect needs and priorities, to understand local and cross-border synergies and conflicts, as well as to identify shared planning solutions. Stakeholders have recognized MSP as a valuable instrument for the communication among different sectors, able also to foster information collection and sharing, addressing a better integration and growth of the Blue economy. The mix of different tools proved to be a good method in facing the challenge to involve stakeholders of the different countries, even when they did not have time/resources for attending cross-border workshops.



Meetings with Public Administrations

Facilitated the individuation of key issues and stakeholders



Interviews with key stakeholders

Allowed the collection of information on interests, needs and priorities



Questionnaires to all stakeholders

- MSP need and case study description
- Needs and Priorities
- Stakeholders' workshop evaluation



Five Workshops along the Region

(Rijeka, Corfu, Trieste, Strunjan, Lecce)

Scientific Institutions



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Local Administrations



Observers

Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, Italy

MPA Tremiti Islands, Italy

MPA Torre Guaceto, Italy

MPA Porto Cesareo, Italy

Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion Secretariat (AIE)

Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment, Slovenia

Ministry for Infrastructure and Spatial Planning (Spatial Planning Directorate), Slovenia

Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management, Montenegro

Foundation "Zoja e Këshillit të Mirë" (FZT), Albania

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, Albania

Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine – Odessa National Maritime University

National Institute of Marine Geology and Geoecology (GeoEcoMar), Romania

Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Greece

United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP)

Regional Advisory Council for the Mediterranean (RACMED)

Joint Research Centre (JRC)

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

In the ADRIPLAN Stakeholder workshops and in the related activities participated vividly a large number of other Public Administrations, CSOs, private enterprises, representatives of EU projects, single professionals. They all deserve sincere thanks from the Project team for their very valuable and free contributions, which was essential to the project's results.

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