



Ca' Foscari
University
of Venice

PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE: SASPAS - Safe Anchoring and Seagrass Protection in the Adriatic Sea

FUNDING PROGRAMME: Interreg ITALIA CROAZIA

CALL: Call for proposal 2017 Standard

HOST DEPARTMENT: DAIS

SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBLE: Sfriso Adriano

FINANCIAL DATA:

| Project total costs | Overall funding assigned to UNIVE |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| € 1.906.100,00 | € 35.000,00 |

ABSTRACT:

The common challenge of SASPAS is to preserve and get a better status of conservation of biodiversity of the Adriatic Sea ecosystem in order to decrease its vulnerability. The overall objective is to improve seagrass preservation and restoration through laying safe anchorage innovative systems, performing pilot transplantations, carrying out monitoring activities and by defining an integrated management system for seagrasses in Adriatic area. The change will result in an increased level of conservation status of habitat types and species in the involved Natura 2000 sites of the Programme area. To reach the foreseen change the project will take a scientific applied approach, following the DPSIR (Driving force – Pressure – State – Impact -Response) causal framework, analysing the interactions between society and the environment - the cause-effect relationships between interacting components of complex social, economic and environmental systems. Doing so is possible to measure the effectiveness of responses put into place.

Since the seagrass and especially the Posidonia Oceanica beds (1120*) do not know boundaries and are widespread in all the Programme coastal areas, irrespectively to the state in which we are, and also the problems with the conservation status are similar in the two member states, significant results can be reached only by setting up a good cross-border cooperation within Italian and Croatian key partners. The cross-border approach ensures coordinated and cooperative actions in planning and performing the protection and restoration activities, as well in developing the foreseen Marine Seagrass Safeguard Integrated Management Program with the guidelines with regulations for the management and the correct attitude and behaviour in protected areas. The innovative aspect that goes beyond existing practices consists in joint cross-border biodiversity protection and restoration through the development of specifically tailored innovative solutions, harmonised for the entire Adriatic area and applicable to other similar realities facing with the same biodiversity protection and restoration issues. The main outputs referred to the foreseen activities are: a Monitoring system with 2 data collections/monitoring campaigns (1 per year), the placement of environmentally friendly anchoring systems (anchorage and simple signalling buoys), pilot transplantations of seagrasses and an Integrated Management System for seagrasses in the Adriatic area, made by a GIS Digital Information Platform (DIP) and a Marine Seagrass Safeguard Integrated Management Program (MSSIMP). Mostly will benefit from project activities Managers of protected areas (also not included in the project), local, regional and national public bodies, environmental associations and NGOs, as well as general public.

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Planned Start date | Planned End date |
| 1 st January 2019 | 31 st March 2022 |

PARTNERSHIP:

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| 1. Comune di MONFALCONE | Italy | Coordinator |
| 2. SELC Società Cooperativa | Italy | Partner |
| 3. CONISMA - Consorzio Nazionale Interuniversitario per le Scienze del Mare | Italy | Partner |
| 4. Parco Naturale Regionale »Dune Costiere da Torre Canne a Torre San Leonardo« | Italy | Partner |
| 5. Association for Nature, Environment and Sustainable Development SUNCE | Croatia | Partner |
| 6. KORNATI National Park | Croatia | Partner |
| 7. University of Rijeka | Croatia | Partner |
| 8. CORILA - Consorzio per il coordinamento delle ricerche inerenti al sistema Lagunare di Venezia | Italy | Partner |