

Welcome to the 4th newsletter of the TUNE UP Interreg Med project

TUNE UP is a multi-module project tackling the need for a strategic and collaborative approach to Med (Mediterranean) MPAs (Marine Protected Areas) management and biodiversity protection, by testing and capitalizing a multi-stakeholder/multi-level governance tool based on River/Wetland Contracts experience tested by the INTERREG MED WETNET project.

The 4th project semester (July-December 2021) was marked by the module shift from the “Testing” to the “Capitilisation” phase. In this context, the partnership completed the final stage of the “Transferring phase” and initiated the implementation of the “Capitilisation phase” mostly virtually due to the ongoing covid19 crisis.

Transferring phase-Final

Three distinct and complementary outputs were produced. The first concerns the production of the “Joint methodology for MPA Contracts implementation” report, the second the implementation of training courses to draft a strategy for MPAs multilevel governance in target Regions and the third an E-learning training platform providing an overview of the MPA Contract methodology. All three outputs have been developed under the coordination of the Department of Architecture of Roma Tre University and with the contribution of all partners.

Regarding the report “Environmental Contracts in Marine Protected Areas -Methodology and Pilot Cases from TUNE UP” a document was published in order to evaluate the effectiveness of Environmental Contracts through testing actions in 10 pilot MPAs.

The results of this joint effort formed the methodology for the implementation of Environmental Contracts in MPAs having as main benefits:

-  the mainstreaming of the Contract tool in the local/regional regulatory framework
-  the increase of scientific knowledge regarding marine and coastal ecosystems and awareness
-  raising of MPAs value
-  the intensified collaboration between local organizations and stakeholders.

The report is structured into 4 chapters

-  **Chapter 1** - overview of the MPAs in the Mediterranean basin: current status, legal framework and policies and achievement of international targets
-  **Chapter 2** – presentation of challenges for governance of Mediterranean costal and marine protected areas
-  **Chapter 3** – description of the Environmental Contract methodology for MPA governance
-  **Chapter 4** – presentation of main issues that emerged during the implementation of Environmental Contract methodology in the 10 pilot sites of TUNE UP project

The report has been published in the open access scientific journal [U3 – UrbanisticaTre](#) (@urbanisticatre) and can be directly accessed at (http://www.urbanisticatre.uniroma3.it/dipsu/?page_id=7423)



To further capitalize the results of the joint methodology for MPA Contracts implementation but also to draft a strategy for MPAs multilevel governance in target Regions, a 3day online training course [“Online Summer School: MPAs Governance. Linking Theory and Practice”](#) was organized. The course that lasted 3 days (29/9-01/10/2021) was organized by Roma Tre University and hosted Project and Associated Partners, MPA managers of the project pilot sites and of other adjoining MPAs as well as key experts.

In the theoretical part of the training courses key experts in the fields of MPA management, policy, decision making, and science presented current strengths and weaknesses as well as future opportunities and threats for Mediterranean MPAs. During the practical sessions of the training courses participants focused on key topics, problems, criticalities, and solutions of the specific pilot sites and finally jointly agreed to the establishment of an Agenda for a Common Strategy on Mediterranean MPAs governance.

The Agenda aims to provide a framework for cooperation based on joint objectives with a view to better promoting integrated governance and finally balancing natural protection and sustainable local development. The final proposed set of measures to pursue common objectives form two Strategies, one for the Eastern Mediterranean Region (Slovenia, Montenegro, Albania, Greece), and the other for the Western Mediterranean Region (Spain, France, Italy) based on the related territorial context experienced in the MPAs involved by TUNE UP.

For more information on the conclusions and the Output of the “Summer school training course” please follow [this link](#).



Additionally, the [E-learning training course](#) “Marine Protected Area Contract: governance in action” was developed by the Architecture Department of [UNIROMA3](#) with the contribution of the project partners. This online course provides an overview of the MPA Contract methodology, available on the Roma Tre University platform upon user registration for students, researchers, practitioners and MPAs managers and technicians.

You can register [here](#) to attain full access to the training course!

The [course](#) consists of 4 educational Modules with 13 Units presenting TUNE UP project, the features of MPAs, the concept of Environmental Contracts, the methodology implemented, and the networking required to improve MPAs governance.

Each Unit includes a video presentation with English subtitles, a factsheet in English, translated in the partners' languages and references. A 5 questions test is provided at the end of each module. A statement of attendance can be released to each attendee who finalises the course. Before the course and after the course, the answer to short optional questionnaires is required.

Capitilisation phase

This last phase is central in TUNE UP project and aims to build the coherent methodology and framework for institutional uptake of procedures and policies related to MPA governance in the partner's regions and in the Mediterranean. The process coordinated by [MedWet](#) consists of the following steps with discrete activities according to the approved Capitalization strategy. Several steps of this process have already been completed, the rest are in progress and scheduled to be finalized during the last project semester.

- **Developing** the Good Practice Database by adding on the wiki source of good practices on coastal governance the MPAs section available to upload the best practices contributions of PPs. This activity is coordinated by [FAMP](#)
- **Mainstreaming** the MPA Contract into regional policies by:
 - (i) developing 10 key governance plans - Regional Policy Toolkit to support regional authorities of TUNE UP area in embedding the tool into their strategies and regulations,
 - (ii) organizing Capacity Building Seminars,
 - (iii) involving Regional authorities and MPAs managers in the subscription of a Regional MoU to uptake the tool,
 - (iv) transferring workshop with MBPC horizontal project coordinated by the [MedSea](#) Foundation scheduled to be held online on 18 January 2022.
- **Capitalizing** the project results, by organizing Capitalization Seminars in coordination with the scientific community. The first CB ["Tune-Up a governance approach to Mediterranean MPAs"](#) was presented during the IUCN WCC.
- **Promoting** the embedding of MPA Contracts at Mediterranean level, through a set of Political Recommendations to be delivered to the EC and to Regional authorities of the programme area.

A scientific paper titled ["Use of voluntary environmental contracts for wetland governance in the European Mediterranean region"](#) authored by Lisa Ernoul, Pablo Vera, Giancarlo Gusmaroli, Serena Muccitelli, Carolina Pozzi, Stefano Magaudda, Katarina Polajnar Horvat, Aleš Smrekar, Alessio Satta and Flavio Monti is published in Marine and Freshwater Research journal as an extra deliverable of the **"Capitisation Phase"**. Wetland Contracts have been adapted and applied in two consecutive European funded projects to test their replicability in the European Mediterranean region.

The results demonstrate the benefit of this type of tool at the local scale and the need to further integrate these processes at national policy scale.



The project keeps its close and fruitful cooperation with the horizontal project [Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection](#) and the [Interreg Med Community](#). In this context the following tools will be included in the updated edition of MBPC tools catalogue:

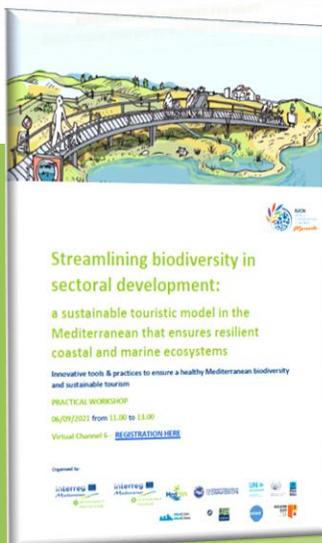
1. Environmental Contract in Marine Protected Areas
2. Good practices database

TUNE UP has also participated in the third "Best practices webinar" of the MBPC Working group 2 on Sustainable use of natural resources. The MedSea Foundation represented the project with the presentation of the ["Environmental contracts, a voluntary-based governance tool for Mediterranean coastal wetlands and MPAs"](#) held online on October 29th. The project was hosted in the [IUCN WCC Practical workshop](#) Streamlining biodiversity in sectoral development: a sustainable touristic model in the Mediterranean that ensures resilient coastal and marine ecosystems and sustainable tourism.

During the 4th semester the project was hosted in various informational events to disseminate its objectives, methodology and outputs but also to learn more about similar initiatives that are carried out in the Mediterranean region and establish synergies with ongoing projects.

You can see some of the aforementioned events:

- Second Annual Medways [Conference](#) at the Spazio Peccioli of the Italian Pavilion of the Venice Architecture Biennale at the Arsenale on 22 October 2021.
- National Days of [Environmental Biologist](#) in Rimini (26-29/10/2021)
- [8th Eurogeo Congress on the Geography of Europe](#) in Prague at the Charles University, Faculty of Science (28/6-01/07/2021)
- [Symposium in memory of dr. Matej Vranješ](#) University of Primorska in Slovenia, Faculty of Tourism Studies – Turistica (20/10/2021)
- The progress of all project activities till November 2021 as well as the planning for the final semester was presented and discussed during the 6th transnational steering committee [meeting of the project partners](#) held on November 25th.



The TUNE UP project is implemented by 12 partners from Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Albania, Slovenia and Montenegro and is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.



- [ANATOLIKI S.A.](#) (lead partner)

Development Agency of eastern Thessaloniki's local authorities



- [FAMP](#) - Andalusian Federation of Towns and Provinces



- [MedWet](#) - Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative



- [MEDSEA](#) - Mediterranean Sea and Coast Foundation



- [MM](#) - Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Albania



- [ZRC SAZU](#)

Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts



- [SEO/BirdLife](#) - Spanish Ornithological Society



- [TDV](#) - Tour du Valat Foundation



- [UOM](#) - University of Montenegro - Institute for marine biology



- [AWMB](#) - Amvrakikos Gulf - Lefkada Management Agency



- [UNIROMA3](#) - University of Roma Tre - Department of architecture



- [AQP](#) – AQUAPROGRAM srl

What to know more about our project activities?

Visit our website

<https://tune-up.interreg-med.eu/>

& have a look at our promotional material [here](#).



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