



Using high quality research to strengthen dialogues and institutional capacities for effective implementation of MSP/ICZM in support of inclusive and sustainable growth in the AIR

A TSG1 – TSG3 JOINT INTER-PILLAR PROJECT ON MSP&ICZM

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ICZM/MSP PROJECT IDEA

In 2020 a **first project description** was prepared (TSG3 project)

The evolution of the project idea towards a **joint TSG1-TSG3 ICZM/MSP project** has been defined some years ago already by multilateral consultations and discussions within EUSAIR.

For **TSG1** the project idea was presented during the 7th TSG1 meeting (Athens, May 2018) and again at the 8th TSG1 meeting (Podgorica, November 2018).

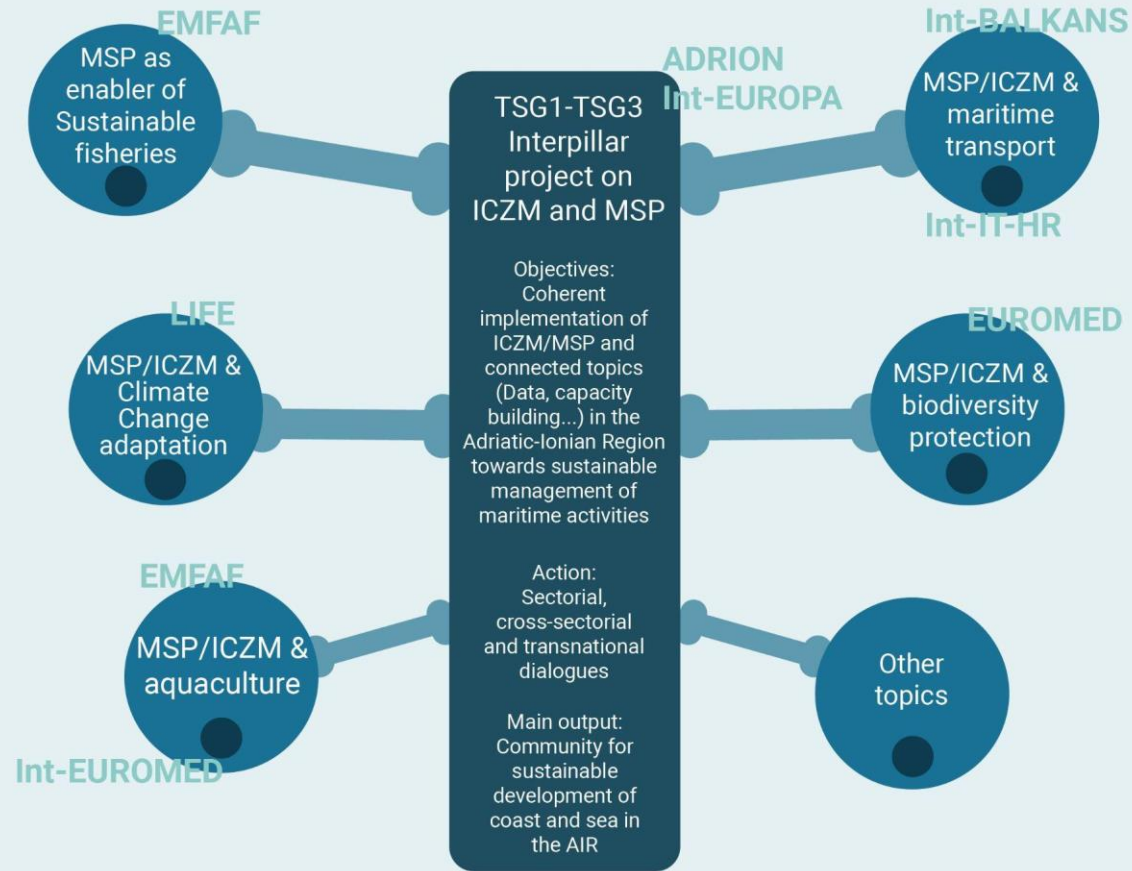
For **TSG3** decision about the project idea was taken by written procedure on 8th TSG 3 Meeting, 19-20 June 2018, Tirana.

In September 2022 in Izola a **first concept was discussed** during the workshop organized by TSG3 in the framework of the Mediterranean Coast and Macroregional strategies Week.

The **revised concept** was presented at the TSG3 meeting (Sarajevo, November 2022)



Macro-regional projects Intelinked structure



INTERVENTION LOGIC

Macro-regional approach to ICZM/MSP activities

Constellation of projects, all related with ICZM and MSP, contributing to achieve the same strategic objectives

Macro-regional ICZM/MSP project as backbone

Sister projects focused on specific objectives and pilot cases

Implementation through **different funding programs**, based on the topic and the geographic scope



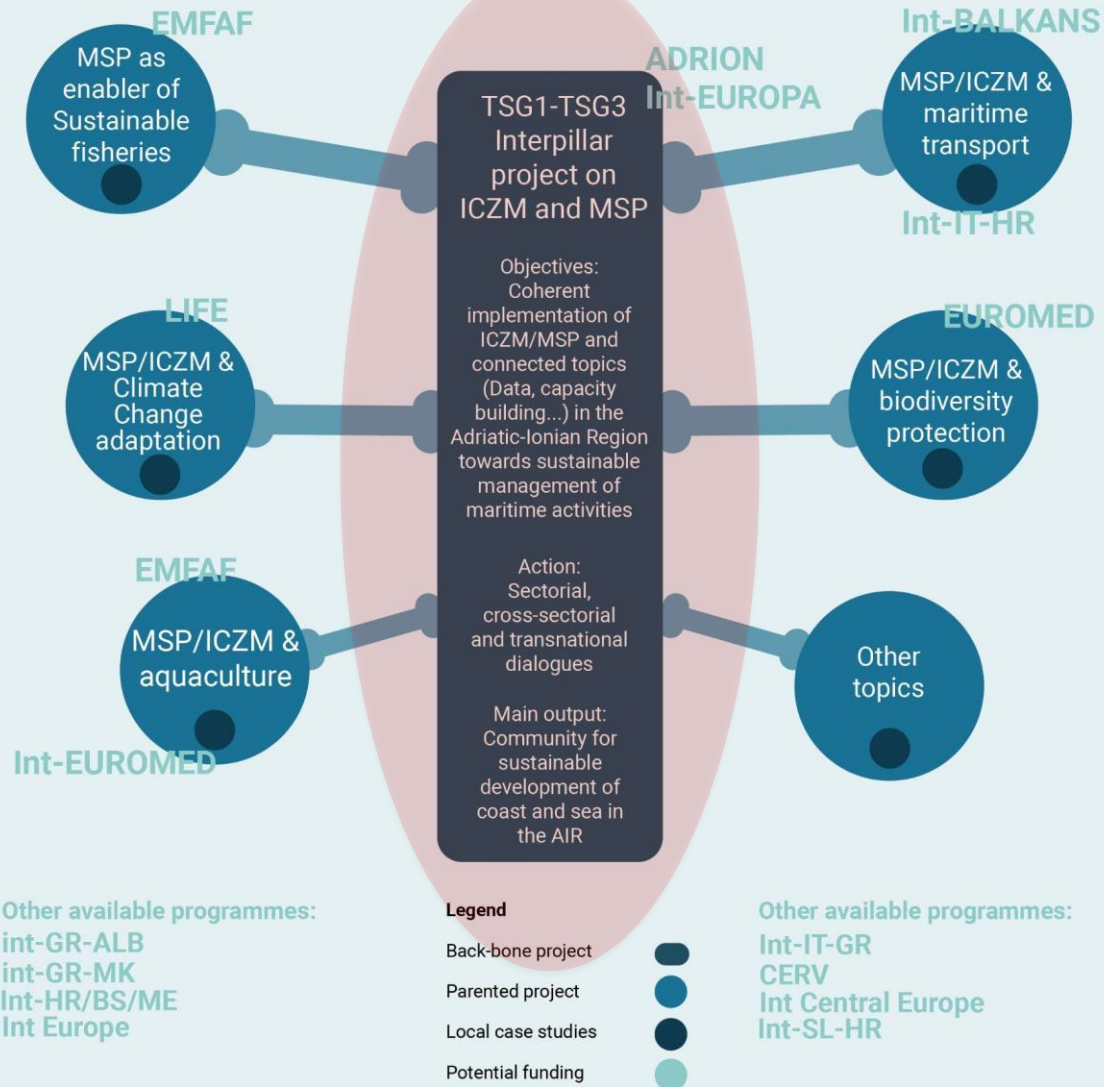
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Overarching goal: achieving a coherent, more efficient, sustainable and equitable use of the marine space and the coasts in the AIR, and their natural and cultural values.

- **Increase of institutional capacity to apply ecosystem approach for the management of economic activities** and sustainable use of natural and cultural assets in the macro-region
- **Achieve harmonized implementation of marine/maritime and coastal plans** through development of integrated governance at national and transboundary level
- **Extend the network of marine protected areas** in the region (Action plan)
- Promote **sustainable blue economy** and **adaptation to CC**



Macro-regional projects Intelinked structure



THE INTERPILLAR FLAGSHIP PROJECT

Geographic scope: entire macro-region (all the EUSAIR countries)

Partnership: 12-16 participant partners

Expected duration: 36 months.

Typology of partners: national institutions with responsibility on ICZM and MSP, research institutions, regional/sub-regional entities with competence on ICZM and MSP. National and regional authorities with competence on specific marine topics/sectors could join the project as associated partners. Endorsement from competent authorities on MSP and marine topics should be stated with a formal statement.



Interpillar project: specific objectives

Goal: to make the first steps towards the establishment a Community for the sustainable management of maritime activities in the AIR.

- Set the basis for a Community for the sustainable management of maritime activities in the AIR, via ICZM and MSP.
- Ensure harmonised and coordinated implementation of MSP plans and harmonize procedures and regulations for marine and maritime activities (including EIA and SEA)
- Improve transboundary management
- Provide tools for cooperation between institutions, practitioners and stakeholders
- Support multi-level governance and dialogue by testing the tools on real cases.



Interpillar project: expected results

- **Permanent Network for the sustainable management of maritime activities in the AIR**
- **Evolution of the Geop for ICZM and MSP in the AIR**
- **Decision Support Tool to support MSP and ICZM authorities, regional authorities, decision makers in general**
- **Dialogue platform to support transnational cooperation.**



Interpillar project: target groups

- **Decision makers, policy makers, public authorities with responsibilities over marine and maritime activities and sectors at national, regional and local level.**
- **Representatives of maritime economic sectors at national and sub-national scale**
- **Actors involved in biodiversity and ecosystem protection, NGOs, research, local communities and society at large.**



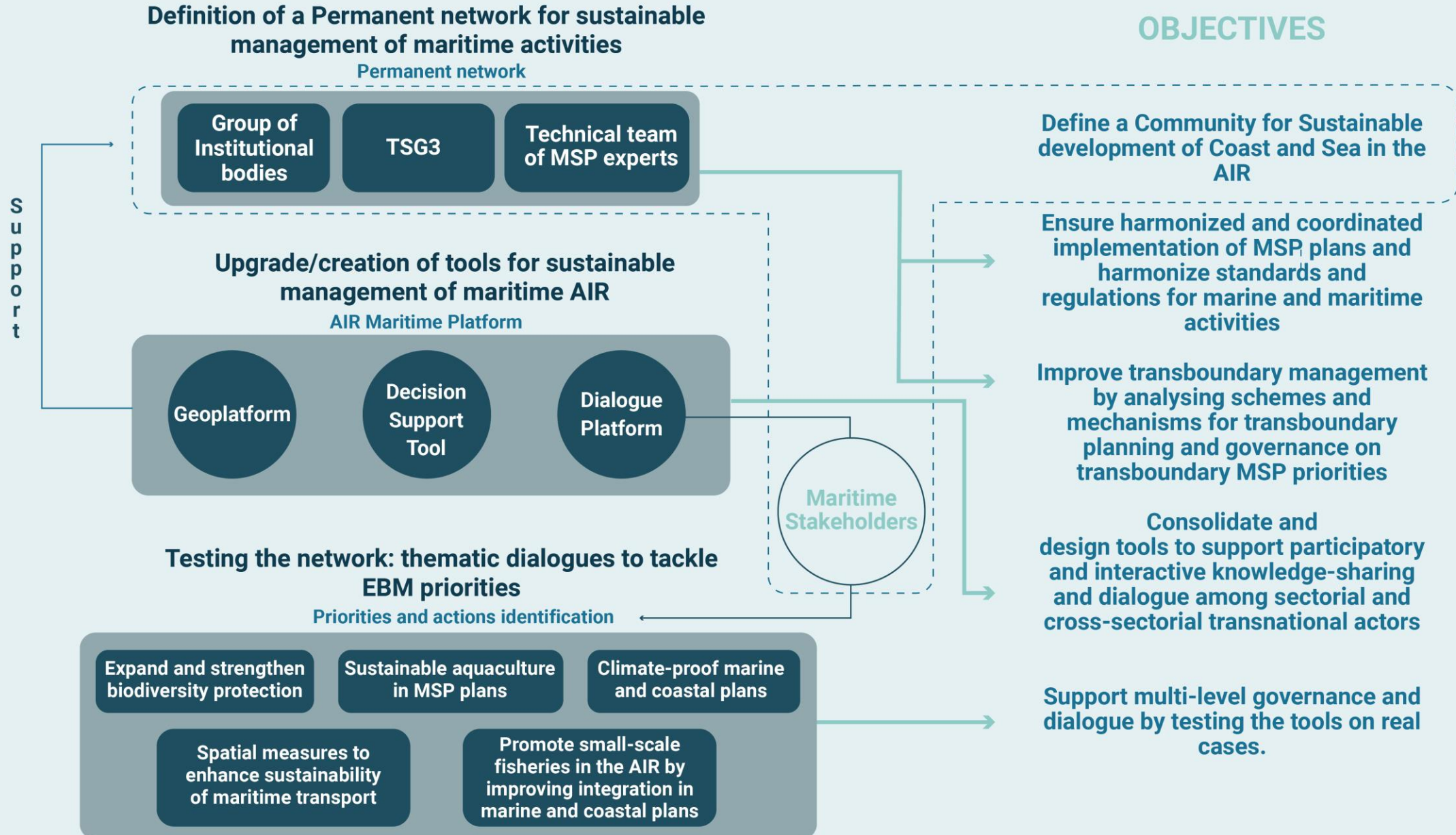
Interpillar project: activities

- **WP1 - Project management and Communication**
- **WP2 - Permanent Network for sustainable management of maritime activities**
- **WP3 - Tools to support sustainable management maritime activities**
- **WP4 - Testing the Network and its tools: Thematic dialogue platforms**



Interpillar project structure

OBJECTIVES



Interpillar project: WP2 the Network

The Network for sustainable management of maritime activities in the AIR will be formed by a group of institutional bodies with stakes in maritime management and a technical ICZM and MSP team of experts to support them

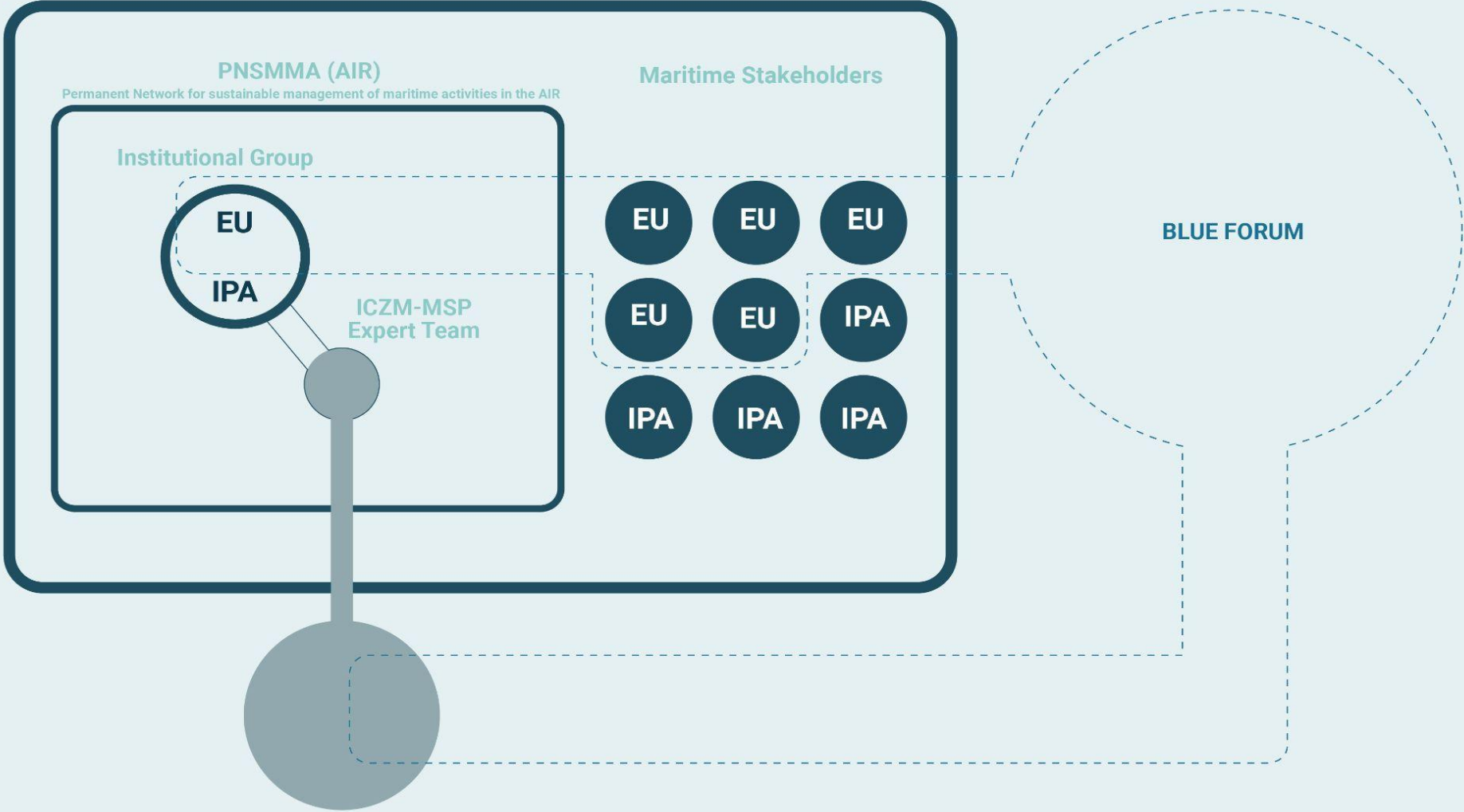
The network will be designed, implemented and it will start working in the project on on concrete activities:

- identifications of gaps/issues regarding ecosystem based management in the AIR
- harmonized regulation and procedures for maritime sectors and activities in the AIR
- Preparation and testing (via pilot projects) of schemes and mechanisms for transboundary planning and governance
- preparation of the Strategy for the sustainable management of maritime activities in the AIR.



Interlinks between project elements and related initiatives

Towards a Community for sustainable development of coast and sea in the AIR



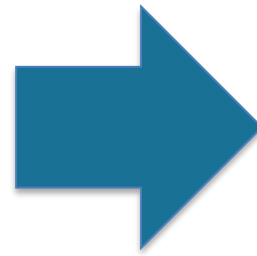
Mediterranean Community of Practice for MSP

Interpillar project: WP3 the tools

Evolution of the Geoportal of the Adriatic-Ionian Region.

Consolidation of existing geoportals and the evolution towards a **Geoplatform of new generation**

Improved and additional functionalities to support MSP and ICZM plans implementation, planning at local level, planning at transboundary level.



Improved categorization of information

Improved functionalities for sea-users:

- Better maps
- Annotated maps to be used in working groups (e.g. for the definition of Green and Blue corridors)
- Easier access to layers

Additional functionalities:

- basic geospatial data analysis
- interactive dashboards
- preparation of geostories



Interpillar project: WP3 the tools

Design and implementation of a Decision Support Tool to support planners and decision makers to use the data and tools present in the geoportal in national, local and transboundary contexts

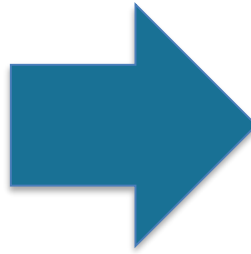


Guided selection of most suitable data and tools available in the Geoplatform based on key management questions:
e.g. how to improve eco-connectivity, where to design Green and Blue corridors
Generation of key facts (reports, presentations), dynamically created by the user
Support broader dissemination.



Interpillar project: WP3 the tools

Design and implementation of a Dialogue Platform: to support interactions of the Network and between the Network and the larger stakeholder community



Discussions fora

Workshops and meetings

Document sharing and collaborative work

Stakeholder catalogues per sector and geographical scope

Easy integration with facilitation tools (e.g. Slido, Miro, Seasketch).

Host advanced training of national experts on innovative concepts (e.g. Green and Blue corridors, ecoconnectivity).

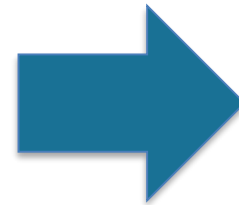


Interpillar project: WP4 the test cases

Thematic groups will be organised by Network and will engage targeted stakeholders in discussion around five selected topics. Each Thematic group / Topic will correspond to a test case of the Network and the Dialogue platform. This activity will allow to make some steps towards the creation of a wider Community for the sustainable management of maritime activities in the AIR.

Thematic groups:

- Marine biodiversity conservation in the Green and Blue corridors
- Sustainable fisheries
- Sustainable maritime transport
- Sustainable aquaculture
- Climate Change Adaptation.



Sister projects



SISTER PROJECTS

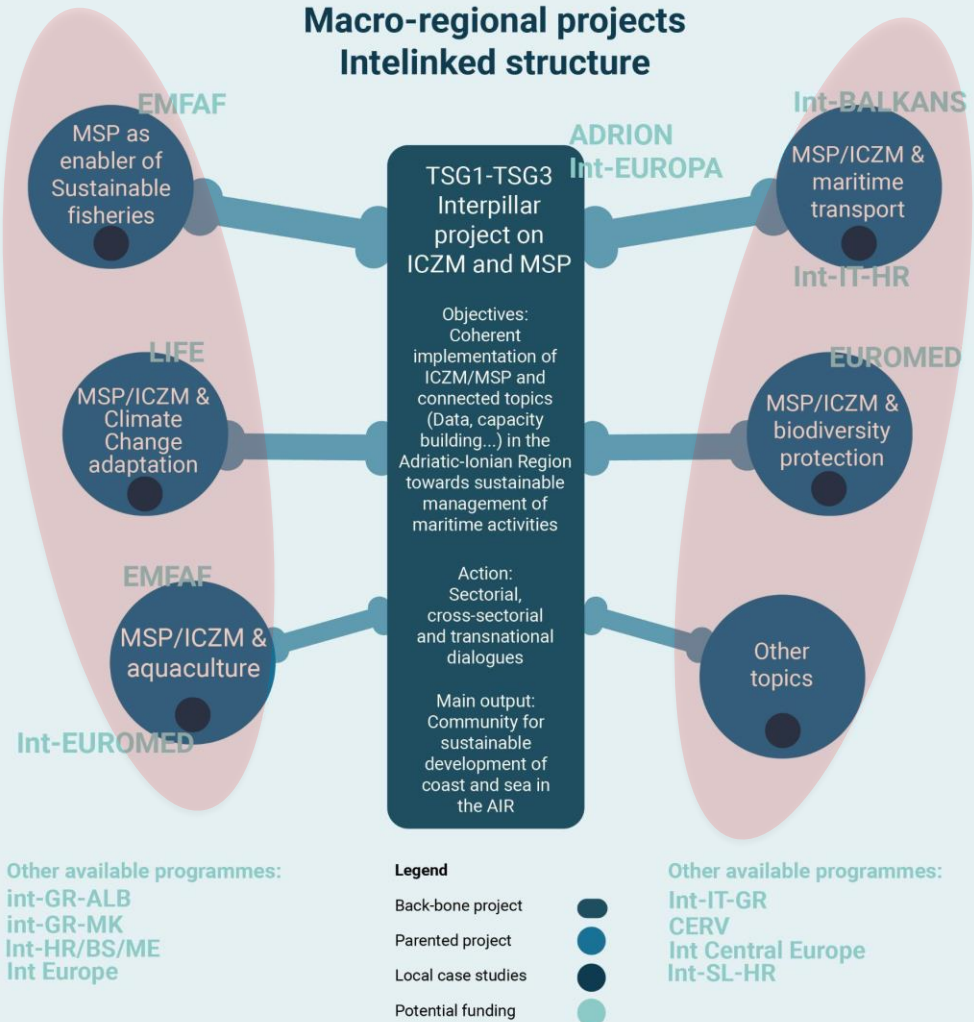
Sister projects will have **specific objectives** and will contribute to reach the overarching macroregional objectives.

Geographic scope: modular, depending on the topic, ideally 3-4 countries, test cases to be developed in specific areas

Sister projects:

1. Expand and strengthen biodiversity protection in the AIR
2. Sustainable aquaculture in MSP plans: zoning and coexistence
3. Promote small-scale fisheries in the AIR by improving integration in marine and coastal plans
4. Spatial measures to enhance sustainability of maritime transport
5. Climate-proof marine and coastal plans: mainstreaming adaptation and mitigation to CC

Macro-regional projects Intelinked structure



PROJECT 1: Expand and strengthen biodiversity protection in the AIR

Specific objectives:

- Identify legal and governance frames for the transboundary management of protected areas in the AIR
- Identify protection objectives, area-based protection forms and related measures
- Define scenarios for ecological corridors and MPAs networks across the AIR
- Assess integration of the above measures in MSP plans in the AIR

Activities:

- Set up a transboundary working group at institutional level
- Preparation of a plan for ecological corridors and MPA network across in the AIR
- Specific activities at test case level

Geographic scope and test cases:

The project will consider two scales: the working group and the plan for ecological corridors and MPA network will consider the entire AIR region.

The other activities will be implemented at test case level; North Adriatic EBSA, the bay of Neum-Klek and the bay of Mali Ston, the Strait of Otranto.



PROJECT 2: Sustainable aquaculture in MSP plans

Specific objectives:

- Exchange experiences of zoning and of inclusion of aquaculture areas in MSP plans
- Investigate opportunities for transboundary cooperation in the development of the offshore practices
- Develop test cases to enhance coexistence of aquaculture with other sectors
- Improve interactions between aquaculture and the marine environment also with test cases

Activities:

- Comparative analysis of aquaculture sector inclusion in the national MSP plans
- Identify and test best options for a multi-scalar planning and management of aquaculture areas
- Identify and test best options to improve coexistence with other sectors and particularly with marine conservation (MPA and N2K sites)

Geographic scope and test cases:

The project will consider two scales: comparative analysis of inclusion of aquaculture in MSP and best options for multi-scalar planning will consider the entire AIR region.

The other activities will be implemented at test case level: e.g. Epirus Region (Greece), Vlorë region (Albania), Veneto Region and/or Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (Italy), Cres and/or Zadar county (Croatia), Izola/Piran (Slovenia), Neum Bay (B&H), Boka- Kotor Bay (Montenegro).



PROJECT 3: Promote small-scale fisheries in the AIR by MSP and ICZM

Specific objectives:

- Promote small-scale fisheries in the Adriatic and Ionian seas by means of MSP and ICZM
- Improve the knowledge on the spatial extent of small-scale fisheries
- Improve inclusion of small-scale fisheries in MSP and coastal plans
- Identify actions to protect and restore marine ecosystems, by using small-scale fisheries as promoters.

Activities:

- Analysis of MSP and ICZM in the AIR: how small-scale fisheries are considered? Gap analysis
- Mapping of areas used by small-scale fishers scope in test cases
- Improvements of MSP plans in order to include small-scale fisheries will be proposed
- At test case level, options to enhance synergies with other sectors (e.g. tourism) and nature protection
- Recommendations on how to improve small-scale fisheries integration into MSP.

Test cases:

Ideal scale for test cases: national or sub-national, comparison and exchanges across cases in the AIR.



PROJECT 4: MSP to enhance sustainability of maritime transport

Specific objectives:

- Improve planning and management of ship transits and operation in the AIR and in its ports to enhance environmental sustainability of maritime transport in the AIR
- Optimise operation and management of Small and Medium sized Ports
- Contribute to the implementation of Emissions Control Area (ECA) and refresh the proposal for a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PPSA) in the AIR.

Activities:

- Analysis of MSP measures in national plans related to the sector, aimed at improving sustainability and co-existences. Exchanges to promote harmonization.
- Identify and construct opportunities for transboundary spatial-based management of maritime transport to improve sustainability and security, connecting ports protocol and MSP.

Test cases:

Possibility to build on the 2006 proposal for Designation of the Adriatic Sea as a Particularly Sensitive Area (PSSA). All coastal countries in the AIR will be considered. It will encompass the whole Adriatic and Ionian seas.



PROJECT 5: Address climate change adaptation through MSP and coastal plans

Specific objectives:

- Enhance capacity of MSP plans in the AIR to contribute to the EU Green Deal objectives related with CC
- Improve coastal plans and strategies in the direction of CC adaptation
- Create frameworks for including CC adaptation in plans tailored on ICZM, MSP and AI specificities

Activities:

- Analysis of MSP plans to identify good examples and gaps regarding adaptation measures and exchange between countries for plan improvements
- Development of integrated management strategies to increase resilience of the coast to CC (e.g. in connection and continuation of activities from AdriaClim project)
- Capacity building actions to share experience and knowledge but also to create a framework to form decision takers on crucial aspects of CC adaptation.

Test cases:

Possible cases: Šibenik county and Dubrovnik (Croatia), Boka Kotorska Bay (Montenegro); Emilia Romagna Region (Italy) and/or Regione Marche, Regione Abruzzo Region (Italy); Apulia region (Italy) and Neretva delta (Croatia); Rieka and Zadar (Croatia) and Koper (Slovenia) ports and industrial areas, Neum Bay (B&H), Boka Kotor Bay (Montenegro), Vlora Bay (Albania).



OVERALL BUDGET AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Interpillar project budget: around 3M€ (depending on number of partners)
- Expected budget for all the sister projects: around 6-7M
- Total expected budget on ICZM and MSP actions: 9-10M€.

The Interpillar Project is conceived to be funded by the Interreg **ADRION** programme. The sister projects would ideally be met within EMFAF, Interregional and LIFE funding programs. Other EU funds, national or international funds could also be used, eventually under a co-financing scheme.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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