

9 FORUM

EU STRATEGY for the ADRIATIC and IONIAN REGION

ŠIBENIK, 15-16 MAY 2024



## PILLAR III: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SESSION

**TITLE OF THE SESSION:  
Blue and green corridors:  
implementation of TSG 3 EUSAIR  
flagships, with Interreg IPA ADRIION**

Šibenik, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**THE ASOSCOP EXAMPLE – HOW EU FUNDS CAN PROVIDE SUPPORT TO FLAGSHIP  
PROJECTS  
FROM THE NORTH TO THE WHOLE ADRIATIC SEA**

**Anna Marconato**

*Central European Initiative - Executive Secretariat (CEI-ES)*

**ABOUT**

Ms. Marconato has almost 20 years of professional experience in international relations, regional cooperation, project management and design. In recent years, since 2018, she managed as coordinator several projects dealing with cooperation of Adriatic countries in the field of civil and environmental protection, with special focus on prevention, preparedness and response to accidents at sea and marine pollution.

**ABSTRACT**

Based on the experience acquired in the North Adriatic and in line with the flagship project ASOSCOP, the Adriatic Sensitive Areas Protection – mechanism (ASAP) project aims at transferring knowledge and best practices from that area to the whole Adriatic basin in order to strengthen maritime protection from the effects of the spill-over of pollutants, especially in case of big-scale accidents at sea that cannot be managed by a single Country and need to be faced at joint transnational level.

Ms. Anna Maconato presentation emphasized the results achieved by the NAMIRS project (co-financed by the European Commission – DG ECHO, <https://www.cei.int/PMO/namirs>) and explained how they will be transferred to and consolidated in the whole Adriatic Sea thanks to ASAP, co-financed by the Interreg IPA Adriatic Programme.

# **PRESERVING AND IMPROVING ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS TO PROMOTE THE ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY: 4PETHABECO**

**Stefano Filacorda**

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Università degli Studi di Udine*

## **ABOUT**

Stefano Filacorda has a degree in Animal Science from the University of Udine and a PhD from the University of Padua. He is a senior researcher, in the field of animal science and technology since 2001, and professor of Wildlife ecology and biology, Wildlife management and conservation and One Welfare at the University of Udine as well as being a lecturer until this year at the Free University of Bolzano Wildlife management in the international course with the University of Innsbruck, EMMA, for the sustainable management of mountain areas. The research activities are dedicated to ecology and wildlife management with particular attention to the interaction with human activities, particularly infrastructure, hunting, fishing and forestry, and agricultural and livestock activities. The target species of the research are bears, wolves, golden jackals, otters, wild cats, ungulates and raptors. He has been and is responsible for numerous projects Life Nature and Interreg, as representatives of the University of Udine and some projects with the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region for the study of the presence of large carnivores, wolves and bears and for the adoption and testing of communication, prevention and mitigation measures that enhance the coexistence between these species and zootechnical and hunting activity.

## **ABSTRACT**

Commonly the ecological corridors are intended as areas, to be protected along which living organisms can stop, reproducing and/or moving to migrate and disperse, thus promoting the maintenance of high levels of diversity and creating the conditions for resilient ecological systems, less often there is talk of corridors and connectivity with different human cultures and land uses and even less of ecological corridors in which they can "move and exchange" good practices and various models of land use; Improving ecological connectivity means taking this into account. The 4Pethabeco project aims to consolidate the Eusair strategy for the conservation and improvement of the environment through a series of actions and digital platforms that will foster the exchange of information, knowledge, methods and good practices between different partners (10), with a view to improving spatial planning and spatial management; at the same time the project will implement innovative pilot actions with active involvement and participation of stakeholders, local communities and young generations, that can encourage the coexistence of human, and his activities, with nature and large animal species, especially large carnivores, in the program area.

## **PRESERVE AND MONITOR GENETIC DIVERSITY AND BIODIVERSITY IN GREEN CORRIDORS**

**Dr Evangelia V. Avramidou**

*Researcher at Laboratory of Silviculture, Forest Genetics and Biotechnology,  
Institute of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems, ELGO DIMITRA, Greece.*

### **ABOUT**

Dr Evangelia Avramidou is an Associate Researcher in the Institute of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems ELGO-DIMITRA. She has more than 10 years of experience on plant genetics and epigenetics. Her research interests mainly focus on forest plant adaptation, plant biodiversity, plant molecular population genetics and epigenetics. She has worked on DNA markers (SSR, AFLP, RAPDs, SNPs) and epigenetic (MSAP) markers and DNA sequencing techniques applied in population genetic and epigenetic studies in a number of forest and agricultural species. She has published more than 60 articles in SCI journals, International and National Conferences. She has participated as Invited Speaker on National/International Conferences and to training schools; she is reviewer, editor, and external evaluator for EU commission and for national projects and publications.

### **ABSTRACT**

The European Green Deal highlights the Biodiversity strategy which sets ambitious targets for conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of ecosystems. Biodiversity loss can have significant economic consequences, as nearly half of the global GDP is linked to nature. Climate change exacerbates biodiversity loss by altering habitats, disrupting ecosystems, and affecting species distributions. Protecting and restoring biodiversity can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. The Adriatic region is renowned for its rich biodiversity, encompassing diverse ecosystems such as coastal wetlands, forests, marine habitats, and mountain ranges. Establishment of Green corridors aim to conserve and restore important ecosystems, protect endangered species, preserve genetic diversity, and maintain ecological processes essential for the region's natural heritage. Green corridors serve as pathways that enable the movement of plants, animals, and other organisms across fragmented landscapes. They promote gene flow, population resilience, and species dispersal, contributing to the long-term viability of wildlife populations. A holistic approach will be presented in order to suggest the establishment of a holistic monitoring system which can monitor genetic and epigenetic changes through time for green corridors area which are rich biodiversity spots.

## CONCLUSION OF TSG3 PILLAR SESSION - BLUE AND GREEN CORRIDORS: IMPLEMENTATION OF TSG 3 EUSAIR FLAGSHIPS, WITH INTERREG IPA ADRION

The panellists have highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts and the need to respect environmental and biodiversity issues. Their presentations reaffirm TSG 3's commitment to establishing and investigating green and blue corridors, which are of utmost importance for scientific research. Ensuring safety and security within these corridors, particularly in the face of climate change, remains a primary objective.

The panel's focused on tangible results from a decade-long TSG3 effort, as outlined in TSG 3's four flagship projects, underscores the necessity of securing additional funds to scale up these projects and ensure their successful implementation.

Some of the key conclusions are as follows:

1. Blue and green corridors aim to address eco-connectivity, vital for enhancing good ecological status in the Adriatic Ionian region, that mean the **investing in flagship projects yields significant benefits for biodiversity conservation**, ecological restoration, and sustainable development.
2. **Biodiversity conservation require cross-border collaboration** due to the interconnected nature of ecosystems. Integrating diverse perspectives and knowledge systems ensures the success and acceptance of conservation initiatives.
3. Combining **genetics and epigenetics** on forest monitoring and on natural ecosystems will **add a holistic approach** for long term **adaptation and sustainability** of green corridors.
4. In that regards **genetic diversity is fundamental for ecosystem resilience** and adaptation to environmental protection and climate changes. Preserving genetic diversity in blue and green corridors is crucial for maintaining healthy ecosystems.
5. **Collaborative efforts at regional and international levels are necessary** to a ddress transboundary work in conservation challenges effectively.
6. Respond on oil spill in the Adriatic Ionian region and preparedness for the **comm on work is important to keep clean and safe sea**.
7. Accidental marine pollution, in particular deriving from oil-spills, represents a dangerous environmental risk, calling for the **urgent deployment of integrated**

**and coordinated mechanisms and management plans for better preparedness and a more efficient joint respond.**

8. **Transferring knowledge and best practices** from the Northern area to the whole Adriatic basin in order to strengthen maritime protection from the effects of the spill-over of pollutants, especially in case of big-scale accidents at sea that cannot be managed by a single Country and need to be faced at joint transnational level.