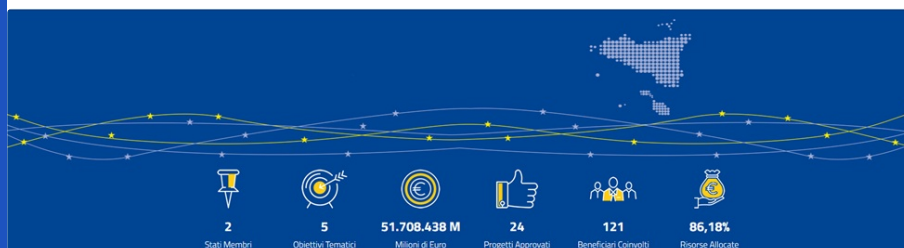




European Territorial Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A Italia-Malta 2014-2020



INFO ITALIA MALTA

Info Italy-Malta, the monthly information service of the INTERREG V-A Italy-Malta Cross-border Cooperation Programme is online.

On info-Italia Malta you will find information about the state of implementation of the Programme and on the results achieved by the funded Projects.

Each issue contains a thematic focus on the contribution of the Programme to the development of the territories and illustrates the benefits for the populations of the cross-border area.

This third issue of the Info-letter Italia Malta is dedicated to the theme of the Protection of the Marine and Terrestrial Environment of the Cross-Border Area.

During the months of May and June, several European and global initiatives have turned the spotlight on the themes of maritime cooperation and the blue economy (European Maritime Day - 21-22 May), the enhancement of territories and biodiversity (World Biodiversity Day - 22 May), the restoration of ecosystems (World Environment Day - 5 June).

The Italia Malta programme actively participates in these initiatives thanks also to the contribution of numerous projects for the protection, conservation, use of nature and biodiversity, as well as for the protection of the marine and coastal environment and coastal populations.

#EMD2021

EMD
EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY

Den Helder
20-21 May 2021



During the 2021 edition of the European Maritime Day initiative, the Italia Malta programme participated in the "Knowledge of the Seas network" pitch with the aim of stimulating the attention of some 120 stakeholders and encouraging them to ask questions on the issues of maritime cooperation.

The [NEWS](#) project, which has created an integrated system of monitoring and adaptation to the risks coming from the sea along the coasts of Granelli-Pachino (Syracuse), Selmun-Malta and the coast in front of Santa Maria del Focallo-Ispica (Syracuse), also took part in the initiative. The system also makes it possible to report the possibility of flooding, erosion of sandy coastlines and collapse of cliffs in good time to the population and to activate safeguard measures to prevent damage to people.

Thanks to the contribution of the INTERACT programme, a video illustrated the aims of the project and its complementarity with similar initiatives financed by the Italy-France "Maritime" programme (Sicomar Plus project) was also shown.

The video is present on youtube at the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQBkiBb4Afs&list=PLvYGvFgV4leFC9uYlqwcigzRULUB1vHhh&index=8>



The wealth of the cross-border area, considered one of the main reservoirs of biodiversity in the Mediterranean, benefits from important actions by the Italia Malta programme, which to date has financed 8 projects to protect the land and sea environment, raise awareness and environmental education.

 **Interreg Italia-Malta**

Tutelare la biodiversità nei siti della rete Natura 2000 in Sicilia e a Malta attraverso le Banche del germoplasma e il rafforzamento delle popolazioni

Protecting biodiversity in Sicily-Malta Natura 2000 sites through Seed Banks and population reinforcement



SiMaSeed project is funded under Interreg V-A Italia-Malta 2014-2020 - Priority Axis III - S.O.3.1.

SiMaSeed aims to contribute to arrest the loss of biodiversity and to promote a transborder sustainable development, improving the conservation status of wild flora using *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation strategies. *Ex situ* activities are implemented in the germoplasm banks through seed conservation and *in situ* conservation activities provide the restocking of natural population in the "special" habitat of Natura 2000 sites network and environmental restoration in public gardens and in nursery sector.

The SiMaSeed project is coordinated by the Dipartimento di Scienze biologiche, Geologiche e Ambientali of the University of Catania in partnership with Argotti Botanic Gardens and Resource Centre of the University of Malta, the Dipartimento Regionale Sviluppo Rurale e Territoriale of the Sicilian Region and Gozo Regional Development Directorate of the Ministry for Gozo.

The project aims to stop the loss of biodiversity through the conservation of wild flora and its use in environmental restoration, public greenery and the nursery sector in Sicily and Malta.

Thanks to restocking actions both of plants belonging to different species representative of Natura 2000 Habitats, chosen from those threatened with extinction and rare, and of species recognized as vulnerable species, the project promotes a model of cross-border sustainable development.

The extension of the intervention involved an area of about 4 sq. km within the SPA of Eastern Sicily, including Torrente Vaccarizzo; Curcuraci ridge, Antennammare; Cavagrande del Cassibile, Cava Cinque Porte, Cava and Bosco di Bauli; Pantani of south-eastern Sicily, Morghella, Marzamemi, Punta Pilieri and

Vendicari; Valle del Fiume Anapo, Cavagrando del Calcinara, Cugni di Sortino. In Malta and Gozo, the territories concerned were the SCI areas of Ta Pennellu Mellieha, Grien Ingraw Mellieha and Qortin tal Magun.



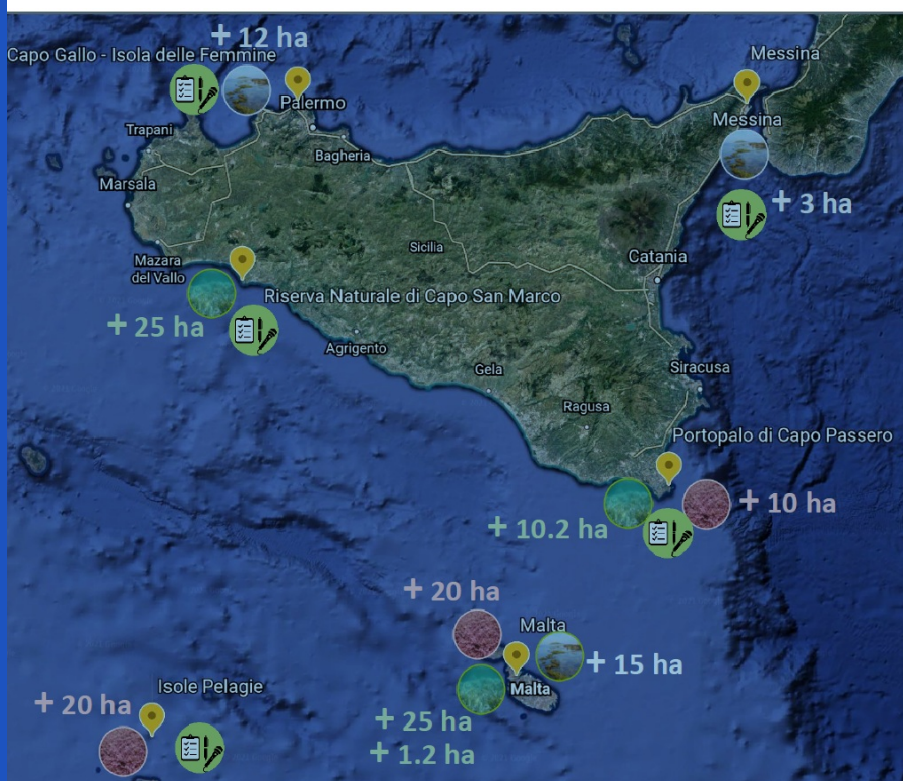
Completed on February 27, 2021, the HARMONY project is the result of a joint work of seven partners who have chosen to put together the specific skills in the field of research and environmental protection in order to protect the biodiversity of the Mediterranean.

Coordinated by the Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra e del Mare of the University of Palermo, the project has been realized also by the Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale, by the Istituto per lo studio degli impatti Antropici e Sostenibilità in ambiente marino del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, by the Dipartimento Pesca Mediterranea della Regione Siciliana, by the Physical Oceanography Research Group of the University of Malta, by the Maltese Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Maltese Environment and Resources Authority.

The project balances measures to monitor the health of the seabed and the species that inhabit them and monitors the effects of habitat fragmentation in the spread of non-indigenous species (NIS) in the central Mediterranean.

The marine space concerned covers about 100 sq km and includes the marine protected areas (MAP) Isole Pelagie and Capo Gallo, the Sites of Community Interest (SCI) Fondali di Capo San Marco, Fondali dell'Isola di Capo Passero, Fil-Bahar fil-Grigal ta', Fil-Bahar Bejn Rdum Majjiesa u Ras ir-Raheb and the Special Protection Area (SPA) Stretto di Messina.

On the sites and marine areas identified, the project carried out joint monitoring and control actions EDRR (Early Detection & Rapid Response), installed high-resolution biomimetic sensors with space-time and monitoring networks based on participatory methods.



SiMaSeed



HARMONY

Protecting biodiversity in Sicily-Malta Natura2000 sites through Seed Banks and population reinforcement

[More Info](#)

Armonizzazione Italo-Maltese per un buono stato dell'ambiente: integrità dei fondali ed interazione con le specie invasive per preservare il funzionamento degli ecosistemi marini

[More Info](#)

Other important initiatives which have just been launched by the programme that promote the dissemination of knowledge and the conscious use of the natural heritage.

SenHAR - Campagne di sensibilizzazione per una armonizzazione Italo-Maltese per un buono stato dell'ambiente - intends to raise young people's awareness of the importance of biodiversity in everyday life, to ensure effective protection thanks to the awareness of the population. .. [more info](#)

AMPPA - Aree Marine Protette e Pesca Artigianale Gestione integrata attraverso la sensibilizzazione ed educazione ambientale - it aims to create an integrated management of marine protected areas that directly involves all operators (public bodies, fishermen, citizens, tourists, etc.) also through awareness-raising and environmental education actions [more info](#)

BIOBLU - Robotic BIOremediation for coastal debris in BLUE Flag beach and in a Maritime Protected Area - aims to make an innovative contribution to the removal of waste from beaches through a high-tech and fully automatic kit.... [more info](#)

CORALLO - Correct Enjoyment (and Awareness Raising) of Natura 2000 Locations - supports the dissemination and use of the natural heritage through a diverse range of edutainment tools and minor and non-intrusive infrastructure interventions within Natura 2000 sites [more info](#)

FAST - Fight Alien Species Transborder - it aims to combat the introduction, naturalization and spread of invasive alien species that harm biodiversity.... [more info](#)

SEA MARVEL - Save, Enhance, Admire Marine Versatile Life - intends to increase the awareness and knowledge of stakeholders about marine life that needs conservation and protection. ... [more info](#)

The theme of Biodiversity in the European Agenda

The protection of biodiversity will be a key theme in the European framework of the 2021-2027 programming period.

On 1 January 2016, the Global Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) unanimously adopted by UN Member States entered into force at international level.

Among these, Development Goal 15 aims to protect, restore and foster sustainable use of the earth's ecosystem and to stop the loss of biological diversity
UN member states have pledged to join them by 2030.

For this reason, in 2020, the European Commission presented the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 in which it proposes, among others, that the Union ensures the inclusion in the post-2020 world framework of the global biodiversity targets of general scope for 2050, in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The new policy framework of European funds for the period 2021-2027 outlines the need for strong investment in the field of environmental protection. In this respect, the "Greenest Europe" framework under Strategic Objective 2 identifies the need for European Member States to improve the protection and conservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and to reduce all forms of pollution.

On this issue, the future Italia Malta 2021-2027 programme will also invest a substantial part of its multiannual budget.

NEWS about project
italiamalta.eu



International Biodiversity Day 2021 - The Planet is our most precious heritage. Making Nature healthy again is fundamental for the physical and mental well-being of human beings[read more](#)

Calypso South Project - HF Seasonde Station Installation. The new HF Seasonde station has been installed at the port of Licata. The first radial velocity maps of the surface sea current are being acquired starting today[read more](#)

For all other News click [here](#).

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