Harmonization and **N**etworking for contaminant assessment in the **I**onian and **A**driatic Seas

Background, needs and project description

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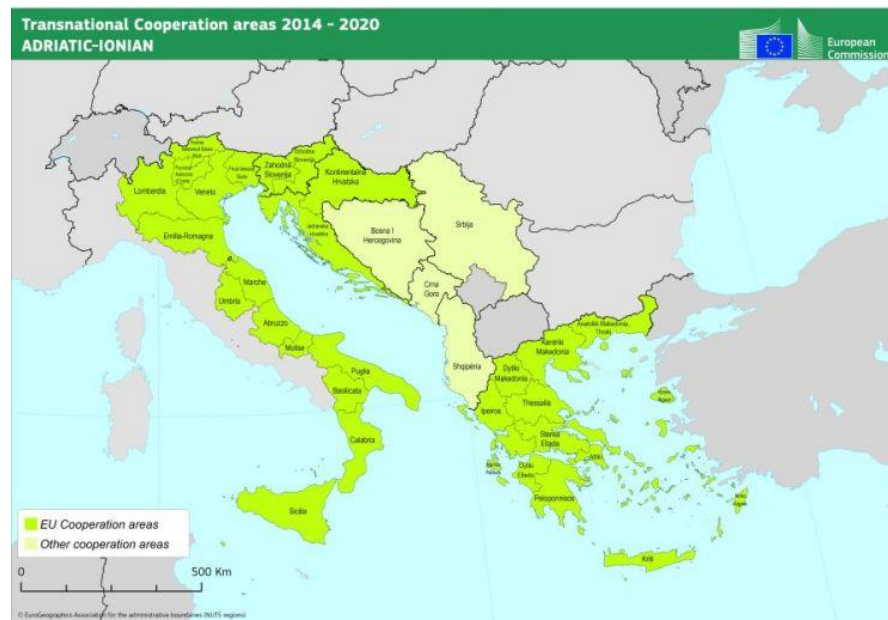*First Stakeholder Meeting, Athens, April 20, 2018*

Project financed by Interreg ADRION Programme
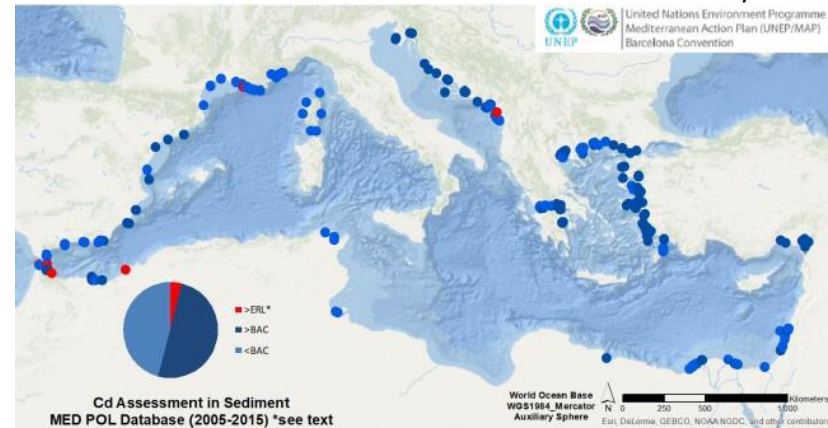
PRIORITY AXIS 2: SUSTAINABLE REGION

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.2

ENHANCE THE CAPACITY IN **TRANSNATIONALLY** TACKLING **ENVIRONMENTAL VULNERABILITY**, FRAGMENTATION, AND **SAFEGUARDING ECOSYSTEM** SERVICES IN THE ADRION AREA

Transnational Cooperation areas 2014 - 2020
ADRIATIC-IONIAN

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Challenges:

➜ The ADRION area is a hot spot of biodiversity and hosts habitats and communities of great environmental importance

➜ Pollution in the ADRION area is a key issue

From: 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report, UNEP/MAP

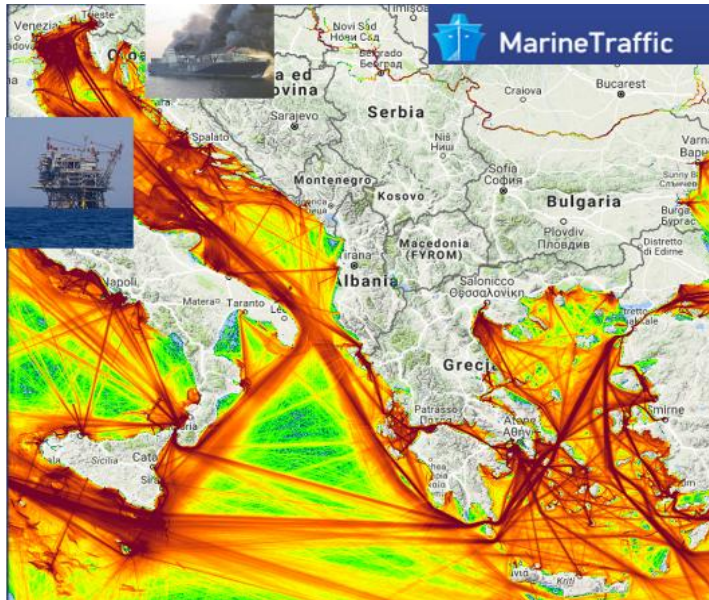From: UNEP/MAP: State of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment, UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention, Athens, 2012.

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Challenges:

➔ The area is intensively used now (and in the future?)

➔ Good Environmental Status (GES) assessment: wide heterogeneity of information used for MSFD reporting

➔ Inconsistencies in methodological approaches

➔ Scarcity of data availability

Oil & gas concessions and platforms

Overall objective:

HarmoNIA intends to address the heterogeneity in **methodological approaches** and in the information used for Good Environmental Status **assessment** (GES, *sensu* MSFD) and to overcome the **fragmentation** in geographical coverage of **data** availability on contaminants.

Specific objectives:

- ❑ to share **best practices** to support the **harmonized** implementation of marine environmental directives in the ADRION region

- ❑ to strengthen the network of **data infrastructures** to facilitate access and re-use of marine data among countries bordering the Adriatic – Ionian Seas

- ❑ to support a coordinated approach in case of pollution dispersion accidents and define a **common strategy** to assess contaminant dispersion risk along the coast

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The approach:

❑ Establish an Adriatic – Ionian **network** of agencies and institutes in charge in the assessment of marine contaminants

❑ Define **best practices** to tackle monitoring, assessment and evaluation of impacts due to contamination

❑ Collect and make accessible through a common and already available infrastructure regional **datasets** of contaminants for the Adriatic – Ionian region

❑ Propose a **regional strategy** for a shared and harmonized evaluation of the risk due to contaminant dispersion from different sources of pollution.

Network of institutions

Adopting:

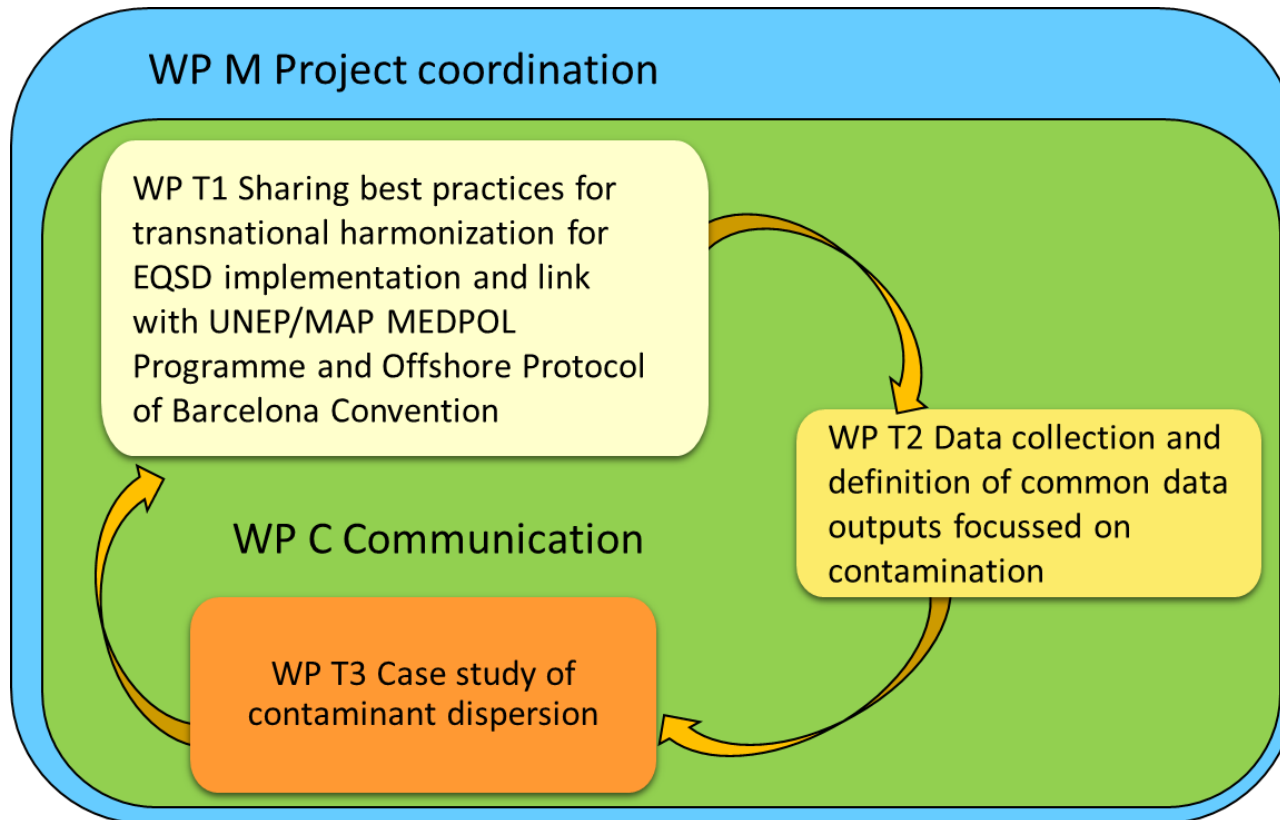Shared analytical protocols

Common data infrastructure

Shared assessment procedures

EMODnet   Heavy metals in biota

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Project architecture:

Activities and expected outcomes:

Transnational analysis of protocols for «Monitoring environmental status (MSFD, UNEP/MAP,…)»

$\Rightarrow$ Where, when (how long), how, data management

$\Rightarrow$ Define Best Practices

Sharing of best practices for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and monitoring offshore activities
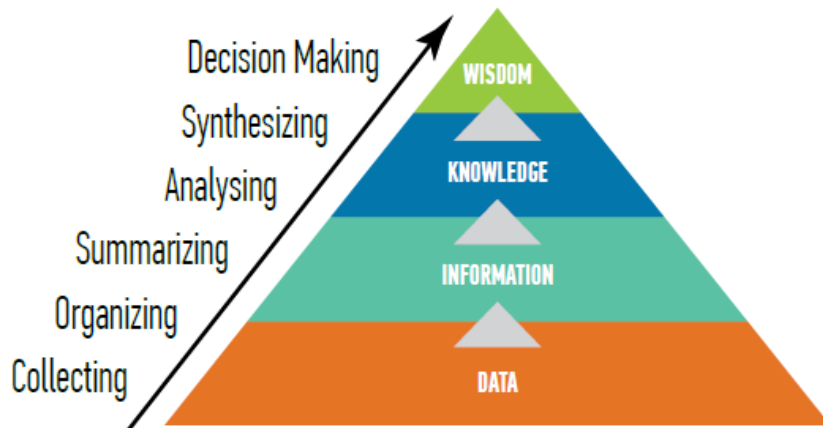
$\Rightarrow$ Towards transnational harmonization of EIA protocols, Monitoring and Decommissioning of offshore platforms in line with UNEP/MAP MEDPOL Programme, MSFD and Offshore Protocol of Barcelona Convention

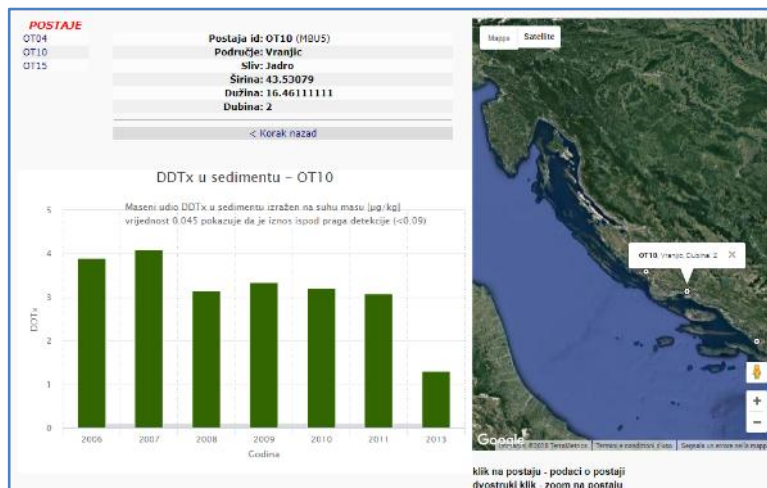*First Stakeholder Meeting, Athens, April 20, 2018*

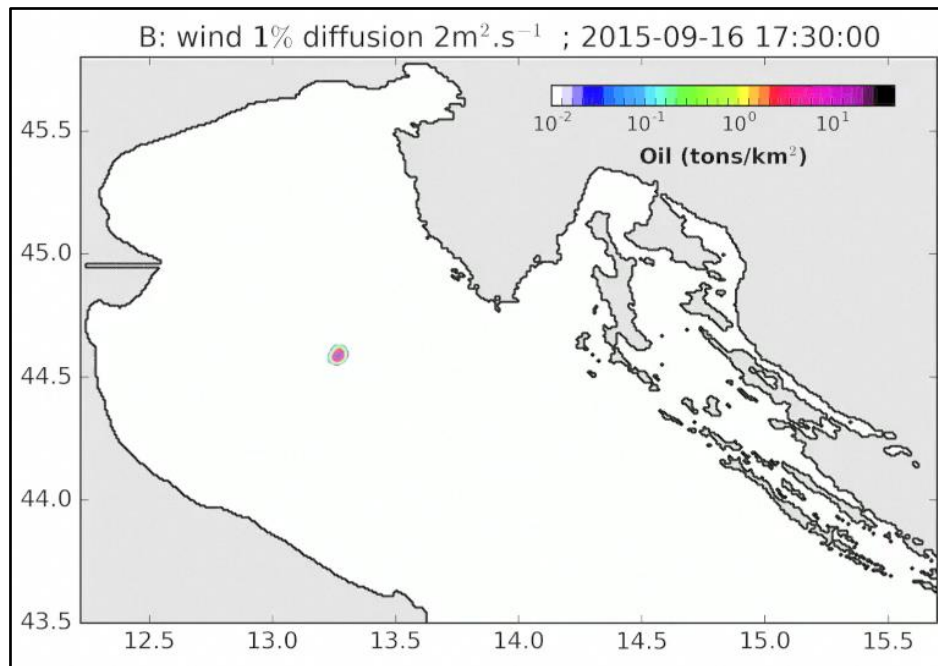# Activities and expected outcomes:

Increase of **data availability**

⇒ Assemble, archive and Quality Control data from different sources (national monitoring, research activities) according to harmonized procedures

⇒ Give access to data according to agreed Data Policy

⇒ Define synthetic and scientifically meaningful ways to analyse and represent data to provide useful information for end users

From data to information

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Activities and expected outcomes:

Assessing **risk index** of contaminant dispersion

⇒ Hydrodynamic modelling to detect possible dispersion from several sources of pollution

⇒ Maps of coastal vulnerability and of pollution probability (**risk index**)

⇒ **Methodological proposal** for assessing risk index of contaminant dispersion

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Contribution to wider strategies & policies:

EU Strategy for the
Adriatic and Ionian Region
EUSAIR

❑ **BLUE GROWTH**

❑ **CONNECTING THE REGION**

❑ **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY:** addressing common challenges, focusing on:

  ▪ **Marine environment**

  ▪ **Pollution of the sea**

  ▪ **Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity**

❑ **SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

Key Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) priorities are:

❑ to bring about a massive reduction in pollution from land-based sources;

❑ to protect marine and coastal habitats and threatened species;

❑ to make maritime activities safer and more conscious of the Mediterranean marine environment;

❑ to intensify integrated planning of coastal areas;

❑ to monitor the spreading of invasive species;

❑ to limit and intervene promptly on oil pollution.

❑ to further promote sustainable development in the Mediterranean region
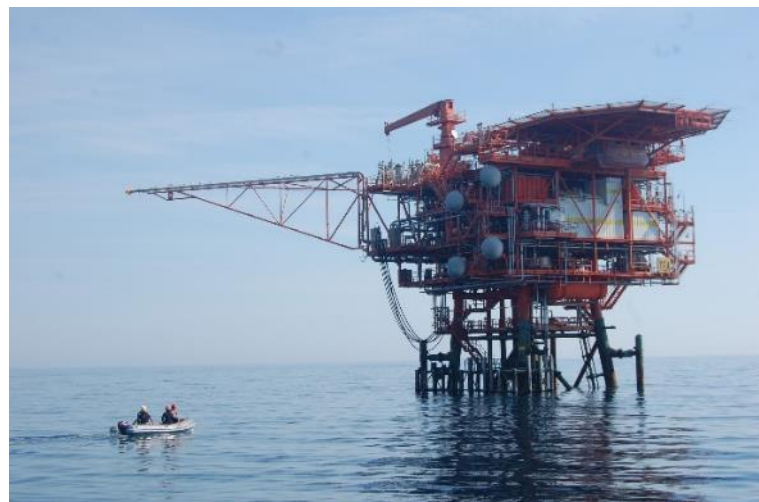
Contribution to wider strategies & policies:

HarmoNIA will contribute to several strategies:

❑ Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, EU 2008)

❑ Protocols of the Barcelona Convention against pollution

- Dumping Protocol (from ships and aircraft)
- Prevention and Emergency Protocol (pollution from ships and emergency situations)
- Land-based Sources and Activities Protocol
- Offshore Protocol (pollution from exploration and exploitation)
- Hazardous Wastes Protocol
- Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)

❑ Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP, 2014)

❑ Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD, 2016)

HarmoNIA challenges in synthesis:

❑ From **good monitoring** data to **good decision** making

❑ Harmonize monitoring protocols for **reliable assessment** of Good Environmental Status.

❑ Towards a **common strategy** to assess contaminant dispersion risk

❑ Best practices to support a **sustainable use** of the sea: the offshore challenge

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Who we are:

Partnership

- National Institute for Oceanography and Applied Geophysics (OGS) - *Italy*

- Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) - *Italy*

- Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (IOF) - *Croatia*

- Ruder Boskovic Institute (RBI) - *Croatia*

- Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) - *Greece*

- Region of Western Greece (RWG) - *Greece*

- National Institute of Biology (NIB) - *Slovenia*

- Slovenian Environment Agency - (ARSO) - *Slovenia*

- Public institution University of Montenegro - Institute of Marine Biology (UoM-IMB) - *Montenegro*

- Agriculture University of Tirana - Department of Plant Protection (AUT) - *Albania*

Associated Partners

- Ministry of Economic Development Directorate General for the Safety Also Environmental of Mining and Energy Activities National Mining Office for Hydrocarbons and Georesources - *Italy*
- Durres Municipality - *Albania*
- Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism - *Montenegro*
- Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection - *Croatia*

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What we expect from this first meeting:

❑ Share HarmoNIA objectives, activities and expected outcomes

❑ Increase knowledge on gaps and needs of the implementation of marine environmental directives and protocols in the field of chemical pollution

❑ Increase knowledge on needs and gaps for a sustainable management of the marine environment

❑ Share information at ADRION scale to tackle environmental vulnerability and safeguard ecosystem services

❑ Collect information to better tune HarmoNIA implementation

❑ For this: we prepared a questionnaire to collect your views on pollution management in the ADRION area

Thank you for your attention!

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