



PROJECT PARTNERS

Partners

1. Municipality of Staranzano (IT)
2. Veneto Agricoltura
Veneto Region's Agency for the innovation in the primary sector (IT)
3. University of Salento – Department of Biological and Environmental Science and Technologies (DiSTeBA) (IT)
4. DOPPS – BirdLife Slovenia (SI)
5. Public Institution for the Management of Protected Areas in the County of Split and Dalmatia "Sea and Karst" (CR)
6. Albanian Development Fund (AL)
7. REGION OF CRETE (GR)

LEAD PARTNER

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Περιφέρεια Κρήτης
Region of Crete



IMPRECO



IMPRECO PROJECT
Common strategies
and best practices
to IMprove the transnational
PRotection of ECOsystem
integrity and services

IMPRECO is a transnational network of protected areas and local communities pursuing one common goal: safeguarding the capacity of natural ecosystems to provide the services that are fundamental for the well-being, security and prosperity of the Adriatic Ionian Region.



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BACKGROUND

Natural ecosystems offer free and valuable services, the so-called ecosystem services, that are at the base of every social and economic process and fundamental for human existence itself: this extraordinary richness is the common natural capital that should be considered at the core of any sustainable development model. This is called the **ECOSYSTEM SERVICES APPROACH** which incorporates the value of these benefits into decision-making for their conservation and valorisation in the long-lasting period. Nevertheless, human and natural pressures, such as pollution, waste disposal, land use, over-exploitation of natural resources, climate change, loss of biodiversity, are undermining the health of ecosystems and, consequently, their capacity to provide the services that are fundamental for human living conditions.

IMPRECO project is applying the ecosystem services approach in an innovative way:

- ⊙ **PROTECTED AREAS** are key players in the protection, conservation and connectivity of ecosystems as well as hot spots for the ecosystem services flows towards local communities. IMPRECO is unleashing their potential as laboratories to **TEST 7 INNOVATIVE MEASURES FOR REDUCING PRESSURES ON ECOSYSTEMS** while maintaining, enhancing and restoring their capacity to provide services vital to local communities;
- ⊙ Sustainable development becomes a social practice only when all the **DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS** embrace the management of the natural capital integrating the different interests in a long-time perspective: to achieve such result, it is necessary to apply a **COMMUNITY - BASED MANAGEMENT APPROACH** to the decision-making processes. IMPRECO is setting up **7 PERMANENT LOCAL BOARDS** composed of 105 relevant actors, among protected area managers, public bodies, civil society, schools and economic operators, and improving their skills for the protection, conservation and enhancement of ecosystems and related services through dedicated learning tools;
- ⊙ Ecosystems are ecologically interconnected and threatened by pressures generated at transnational level: safeguarding the natural capital requires a **TRANSNATIONAL APPROACH** to be effective. IMPRECO is developing a **TRANSNATIONAL NETWORK WITH A COMMON STRATEGY** aimed at strengthening and improving existing practices on environmental protection and ecosystems management through transnational collaboration.

THE PROJECT WORKPLAN

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF ECOSYSTEMS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

- ⊙ Preliminary studies for mapping biodiversity, habitats, ecosystems and related services;
- ⊙ Identification and monitoring of indicator species;
- ⊙ Identification of the most relevant stakeholders and organization of local working groups

MANAGEMENT OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

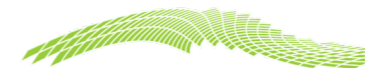
- ⊙ Identification of key ecosystems for testing participatory management models;
- ⊙ Implementation of 7 pilot actions on ecosystems management;
- ⊙ Organization of a database of good practices;
- ⊙ Adoption of a transnational strategy;
- ⊙ Activation of permanent collaborations with stakeholders.

NETWORKING AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

- ⊙ Establishment of the transnational network;
- ⊙ Development of an online platform for knowledge sharing and e-learning;
- ⊙ Development and application of a common educational program for schools and young people



IMPRECO



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Project duration: 24 months

7 Project Partners
5 Countries
7 Cities/Areas

