



## CO-EVOLVE

*Promoting the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems for the development of sustainable coastal and maritime tourism*

# FACTSHEET #17

## COMACCHIO PILOT AREA

### SUMMARY:

*In the past, the Comacchio pilot area (Lido di Spina beaches) was characterised by abandoned bath-house facilities. The economy of the area has undergone a progressive and constant decreasing of the productive and occupational capacity of the territory over the last decades. The output of the participatory process was a project proposal for a requalification intervention of the dune-beach system and the construction of a wooden boardwalk to facilitate access.*

The Comacchio pilot area is a low and sandy beach that in the past was characterised by abandoned bath-house facilities (recently demolished by the Municipality of Comacchio) along the right side of the Logonovo channel in Lido di Spina beaches.

The economy of the area has undergone a progressive and constant decreasing of the productive and occupational capacity of the territory over the last decades. The tourism sector recorded an actual loss of two million visitors with the accommodation structures that have decreased from hundreds in the late '80s, to 20.

The beaches of Comacchio are characterised by a predominant type of residential tourism consisting of families or groups of people who decide to spend one or two weeks there. The accommodation supply situation is anomalous both in relation to the regional level and to the

national one: the hotels cover only 4-5% of the total receptivity against 27% by campsites and 65% by apartments.

For Lido di Spina, the "pressure" of the users on the beaches (i.e. number of users per square metre of concession of the bathing establishment) has an average value of 0.11.



Fig 1. Comacchio pilot area



*Fig 2. Situation of the area before the demolition of the decommitted bathing facility structures, and sketch of the designed intervention (SSI).*

### Requalification of the area

During the first phase of the project (January – December 2017) some technical meetings were held, with regional and municipal technicians together, to identify possible solutions and the co-design of the intervention (small-scale investment). The output of this phase was the project proposal for a requalification intervention of the dune-beach system in the Pilot Area 2B and the construction of a wooden boardwalk to facilitate access and to protect the reconstructed dune from being trampled.

During the meetings, the participants proposed that the area should become an example of a fully accessible Pilot resort area, as was the case with the “Handicap Centre of Ferrara in a private home”. A pilot bathing area with a brand that certifies it as an accessible area for people with disabilities and that can be used throughout all the year.

Participants propose:

- Re-naturalised area with coastal dunes and with a jetty and docking services or navigability, i.e. a small harbour;
- Access door to the beach for walks;
- Meeting place for events in Lido di Spina (Color Run, Nordic Walking, kites, etc.);
- Olfactory path in the dune habitat of the Po Delta with explanations and itineraries similar to the Botanical Garden;
- Photographic labs using the area as a set (especially in winter);
- Prototype of wooden structures for bathing, built in sustainable materials (solar panels, water recycling), structures on stilts. Sails as shading structures.



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