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CO-EVOLVE NEWSLETTER #4 DECEMBER 2018



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

CO-EVOLVE is an Interreg MED three-year project that aims at analysing and promoting the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems in touristic coastal areas, allowing sustainable development of touristic activities based on the principles of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP).

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WHAT IS NEW?



The project's Testing phase - which started in February 2018 and will end in May 2019 - is still ongoing. It has 2 main objectives:

- Define and test training tools for implementing sustainable tourism and for raising awareness among local administrators / tourism operators;
- Develop local Action Plans and implement actions for sustainable tourism in the Pilot Areas, with the participation of the main stakeholders and local coastal communities (participatory process).

All Pilot Areas coordinators (Region of East Macedonia and Thrace; Po Delta Veneto; Regione Emilia-Romagna; Port of Valencia; Hérault Department; RERA SD; DUNEA) successfully delivered their first progress reports.

Two training courses have been organised since the beginning of this year: one in March in Bologna, and another one in October in Barcelona. The objective of the training courses is to get project partners, in particular those implementing pilot actions at local level, acquainted with the ICZM Protocol, strategic planning process, sustainability indicators, MSP principles and participatory approaches with the aim to have a common understanding and an harmonised approach when preparing sustainable tourism plans for pilot areas.

In addition to this, two key communication deliverables were produced:

- The [first scientific article](#) "Tackling challenges for Mediterranean sustainable coastal tourism: An ecosystem service perspective"
- The first set of [factsheets](#) on studying activities

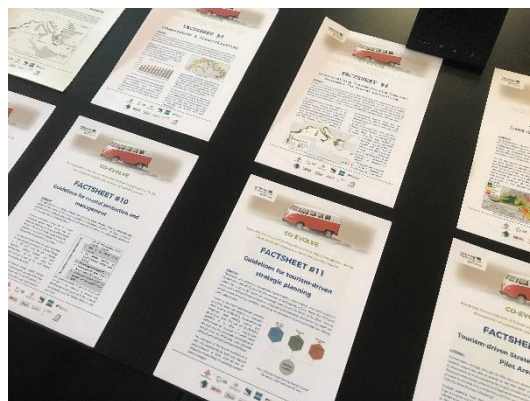


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Tackling challenges for Mediterranean sustainable coastal tourism: An ecosystem service perspective

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All the project's deliverables are now available on [CO-EVOLVE's website](#).

MOVING FORWARD

Fostering collaboration with Partners from Southern and Eastern Mediterranean



A first meeting of [MedCoast4BG](#), a project labelled by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), took place on 31 October, back-to-back with CO-EVOLVE's 5th Steering Committee

and

Second

Training

Course.

This was the occasion to officially launch the collaboration with MedCoast4BG partners and observers from Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries i.e. **Tunisia** (National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies); **Morocco** (Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Waters and Forests; as well as the L'Oriental Region); **Lebanon** (Ministry of Works and Public Transport); and **Montenegro** (Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism). Further potential partners and observers are being identified in these territories and beyond in the MED area.

Additional Pilot Areas -which will complement the existing ones in the frame of CO-EVOLVE- have been identified in all these countries. These are complementary as they are different both in geographical and characteristics (problems encountered and peculiarities) terms.

Both projects are now in the process of identifying jointly further funding opportunities to finance the extension of CO-EVOLVE's methodology to these new territories and foster its replicability.

OUR EVENTS

CO-EVOLVE 5th Steering Committee – 29/31 October 2018 (Barcelona)



The 5th Steering Committee and 2nd Training Course of CO-EVOLVE were organised in Barcelona two years after the project began. Key internal issues were discussed, in particular the progress of pilot actions in the project's [7 pilot areas](#) that are still in the process of establishing a dialogue with key local stakeholders so as to develop strategic plans adapted to their characteristics and needs, and in line with the ICZM and MSP principles. It was organised back-to-back with the UfM-labelled [MedCoast4BG](#) project on 29-31 October in Barcelona (UfM premises).

The 2nd Training Course was organised on this occasion to assist partners in the implementation of pilot actions. It focused on “planning for improving the coastal and marine sustainability of tourist areas” and included theoretical sessions on ICZM plans elaboration, the “Climagine” participatory method used for coastal plans, the practical use of indicators on the pilot project areas, financial opportunities and economic instruments for pilot project implementation, as well as a more practical course (e-learning) on designing and managing participation processes. It was open to CO-EVOLVE observers and MedCoast4BG partners.

The CO-EVOLVE/MedCoast4BG joint meeting was finally the occasion for partners of MedCoast4BG together with representatives from the UfM Secretariat to exchange on the project's characteristics and advancement and explore further funding opportunities and synergies with other relevant initiatives i.e. [MUSES](#) project, BLUEMED Coordination and Support Action ([BLUEMED CSA](#)), the [Bologna Charter](#), [West MED](#) and [PANORAMED](#). In addition to this, potential new pilot areas located in Mediterranean Partner Countries and Montenegro were presented by delegates -partners of MedCoast4BG- that were invited for the occasion.

[Read more](#)

CO-EVOLVE Infoday in Greece – 5 October 2018 (Komotini)



The Region of East Macedonia and Thrace together with the University of Thessaly, which are partners of CO-EVOLVE, organised a meeting with local stakeholders to raise awareness on CO-EVOLVE and present the pilot actions carried out in the Alexandroupoli/Makri & Thassos/ Keramoti Pilot Areas.

Mediterranean Coast Day/PAP/RAC's 40th anniversary – 25 September 2018 (Split)



On September 25 the city of Split, or more precisely the Museum of Fine Arts, hosted the central regional celebration of the Mediterranean Coast Day 2018 which was attended by 100-odd participants. Since this year PAP/RAC celebrates its 40th anniversary, that was the main topic of the event, although the leitmotif was the need to join forces in order to achieve sustainable development which has been recognised as the best way to preserve our coasts, which are beautiful and valuable but also fragile and threatened, for the generations to come. And it is only logical that it was so because the main objective of the Coast Day campaign is raising awareness of those issues.

It was recognised that the Mediterranean is one of the most beautiful seas in the world, and the most valuable asset of the countries surrounding it, from both environmental and economic points of view. Unfortunately, it is seriously threatened and has faced great environmental problems, especially over the past several decades. MAP, with its centres, has invested great efforts to find solutions for the most pressing issues, and the results can be seen. The role of PAP/RAC was pointed out and the Centre received praise for the good work it has been doing for the past 40 years. As a major milestone, reached recently, in 2011, the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol was pointed out which entered into force in the framework of the Barcelona Convention. Through this legally binding instrument, Mediterranean countries committed themselves to ensure the sustainable management and use of coastal zones. To date, 10 Mediterranean countries and the EU have ratified the ICZM Protocol.

[Read more](#)

WE WERE THERE



CPMR Intermediterranean Commission General Assembly - Patras, 28-29 June 2018

CO-EVOLVE was represented on the occasion of the [General Assembly](#) of the Intermediterranean Commission (IMC) of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), during which its members approved key **strategic policy documents**, among which the General Assembly's [Final Declaration](#), including a section on Sustainable Maritime and Coastal Tourism and Culture, as well as the [IMC-CPMR political Agenda to support Sustainable Tourism](#) in the basin. [Read more](#)

ECOMONDO Fair/Interreg MED #terrace Sustainable Tourism - Rimini, 7 November 2018

Several partners of CO-EVOLVE took part in the Interreg MED #terrace stand organised by the Sustainable Tourism community in the frame of the ECOMONDO Fair. This event aimed at promoting the results of several Interreg MED Modular Projects from several thematic communities i.e. Blue Growth; Green Growth; Renewable Energy, Urban Transport; Sustainable Tourism; Biodiversity Protection. [Read more](#)



MITOMED+ Workshop 'Towards Sustainable Maritime and Coastal Tourism communities' - Brussels, 8 November 2018

CO-EVOLVE (the University of Thessali) was invited to speak during the afternoon session ([SEARICA Intergroup](#)) of the Workshop 'Towards Sustainable Coastal and Maritime Tourism Communities', organised by the CPMR and NECSTouR on 8 November 2018 in Brussels (European Parliament). The event saw the participation of more than 150 Destination Managers, Professionals and Regional Policy Makers, representatives from the academic and private sector, as well as Members of the European Parliament, representatives from the main European Institutions and the World Tourism Organisation.

CAP Workshop of the MED Sustainable Tourism community - Marseille, 20-21 November 2018

Many partners of CO-EVOLVE were represented during the first Capitalisation Workshop organised by the [Interreg Med Sustainable Tourism community](#) in Marseille. Project partners and other stakeholders had the chance to discuss the best ways to transfer the results delivered by the Modular Projects to specific target groups (e.g. European and Mediterranean stakeholders) in order to mainstream projects' results into tourism policies, and create policy messages.

[Read more](#)



SAVE THE DATES!

MED 'Sustainable Tourism' community Capitalisation Workshop#2 - Dubrovnik (27-28 March 2019)



The second Workshop of the MED Sustainable Tourism Community will take place 27-28 March 2019 in Dubrovnik (Croatia).

It aims to continue the work on strategic topics of the Mediterranean tourism sector that was initiated in Marseille in November 2018, with the facilitation of external experts:

1. Monitoring the sustainability of tourism: what are the knowledge gaps of policy-making processes? How to bridge the data gaps on tourism?
2. Reducing the environmental-cultural-social impacts of tourism in the Mediterranean region
3. Tourism as a strategic driver for a sustainable and responsible economic growth and prosperity in the Mediterranean region
4. Governance mechanisms to engage and to include a wide variety of stakeholders in a more sustainable and responsible tourism

[Read more](#)

CO-EVOLVE 6th Steering Committee - Montpellier (April 2019)



CO-EVOLVE's 6th Steering Committee will take place in Montpellier during the week of 8 April 2019, at the Hérault Department (dates *tbc*).

More information coming soon on [CO-EVOLVE's website](#).

JOIN US



Become an observer of CO-EVOLVE

If you want to become an observer of the CO-EVOLVE project and monitor/get involved in its activities, we invite you to fill in this [form](#). It was developed in order to ensure the results of the project are being disseminated as broadly as possible and capitalised on, but also to engage as many stakeholders as possible in its activities.

The CO-EVOLVE project is supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the [Interreg MED Programme](#)

Lead partner: Region of East Macedonia and Thrace - Regional Development Fund





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