



Testing self-regulated initiatives for the protection of natural heritage in INHERITURA areas ⁽¹⁾ is one of the activities (A4.4) of the project testing phase.

The activity aims to promote and test the commitment of tourism economic operators in forming **bottom-up** initiatives for the protection of natural heritage. Partners participating in this test phase are expected to encourage and facilitate the emergence of self-regulated initiatives, schemes and agreements among tourism economic operators in their regions, with multi-stakeholder participation.

A self-regulated, or “bottom-up” measure, is a measure developed and implemented by tourism economic operators and stakeholders, who assume the primary role in the decision-making process in collaboration with public authorities. Participation of stakeholders is the heart of self-regulated approaches. For a measure to be characterised as such, tourism stakeholders should **jointly** develop and implement the measures and have a primary role in the decision making process.

(1): for the definition of INHERITURA area see [newsletter n.3](#))



About the measures

Regarding the content of the measures, each partner decided the type of actions to perform. The choice made by a partner and the tourism businesses and stakeholders could target various sectors, like waste management, erosion prevention and biodiversity loss, just to name a few.

Signing system: it could appear to be the simplest solution, but it is a very effective one. ADPM, INHERIT’s Portuguese partner, developed two alternative paths with a tourist signing system in a forest that tourists have to cross to reach a highly frequented beach. In this way, the attractiveness of the forest is augmented, since the tourists that go to the beach can now explore the forest using these two paths. The “controlled” exploration of the forest also helps to protect the chameleon, an indigenous species of the area.

Biodiversity prevention measures: IPTO, from Croatia, has implemented a number of measures to preserve and improve biodiversity in a forest. Some of these are: necessary sanitary deforestation and subsequent planting of new trees, installation of stairs to prevent erosion, installation of wooden fences and pillars, trash cans, birdhouses and bugs hotels, electricity and wi-fi infrastructures and cameras (to prevent destruction of the forest by visitors).

Control erosion in a forest: in order to combat erosion in a forest, we need to collect information about the traffic on the trails. The first step is to count the number of people that walk or ride a bicycle on a trail. To do so, AIFM from France, installed 10 eco-counters on the trails of their test zone (watch how to implement a sustainable counting system [here](#)). The data collected from the eco-counters will provide insight on which measures must be taken in order to tackle erosion and degraded tracks.

Site restoration: two sites in Malta rich in endemic species of flora and fauna and coralline limestone, have suffered over the years from the dumping of construction and other waste. The pilot activity of MRDD foresees the cleaning of unwanted materials from the areas, the removal of aliens species and the planting of indigenous plants, with a rehabilitation program that will re-establish the natural biodiversity in the areas. More specifically, some of actions taken are: cleaning of the sites, installation of tourist counters, training of staff, stakeholders and the general public towards sustainable tourism, development of two new trails, planning for the development of signboards.

We reported a selection of the measures implemented. Not all INHERIT partners participate in Activity 4.4, the partners involved was pre-defined by the project.

[Learn about the INHERIT project](#)

Pills

Involving stakeholders is a difficult task and JPZ Izola from Slovenia had to idea to air a video in the local news describing the aim of the INHERIT project and its test phase.

It was easier for the partners who had small scale investments to involve stakeholders.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some partners had to delay the installation.

Most meetings with stakeholders were held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some partners had issues in the test zone initially selected and had to change the area or the actions to perform.

Most of the measures implemented can be applied to other contexts and geographic areas.

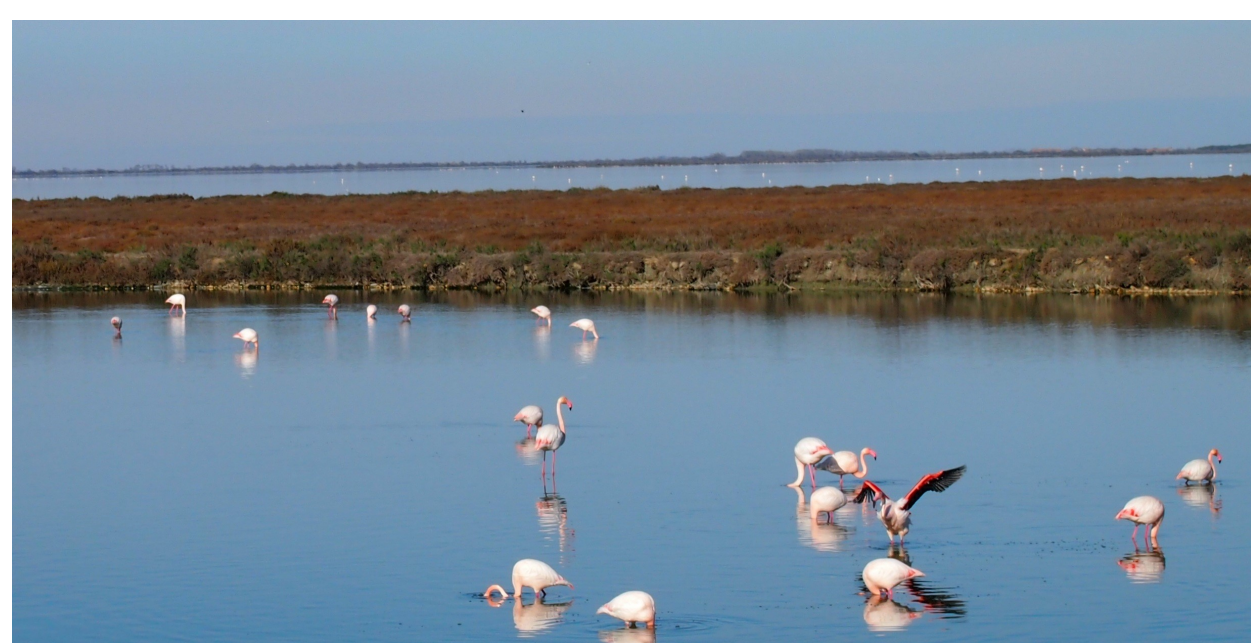


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