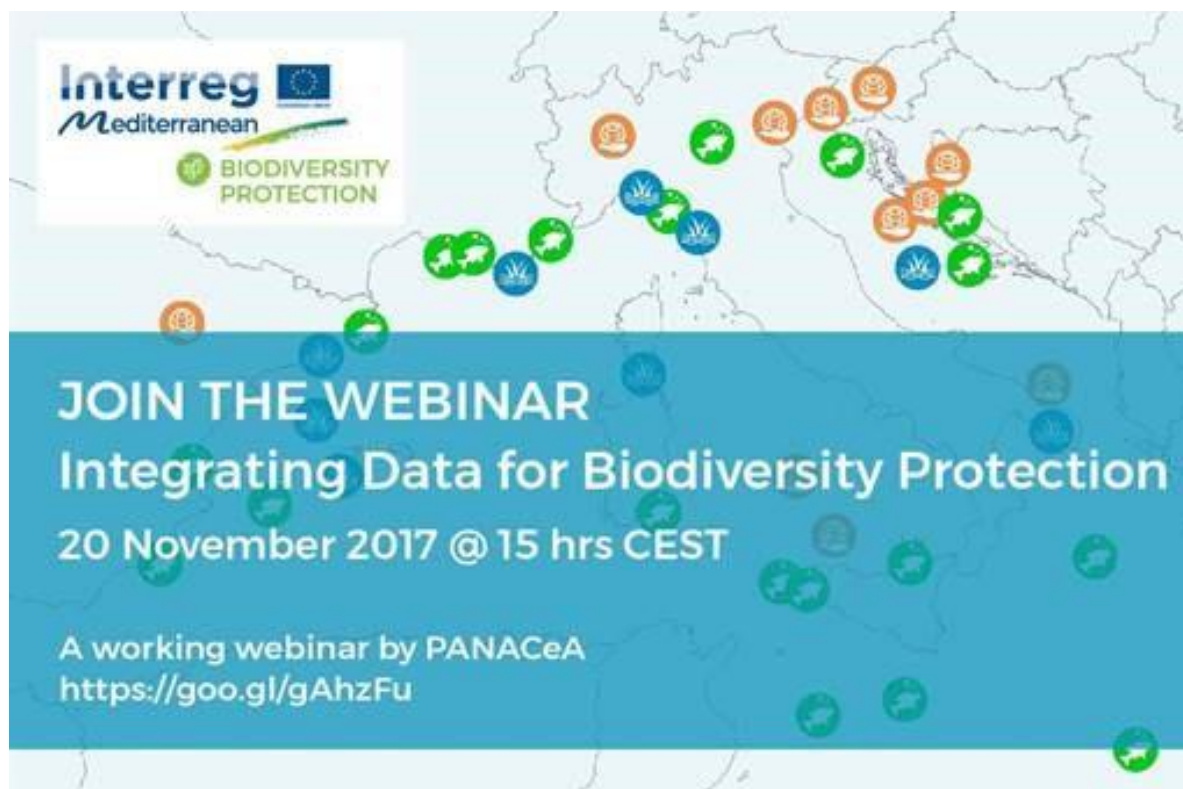


Conclusions

Interreg Med Working Webinar on Integrating Data for Biodiversity Protection in the Mediterranean

The second Working Webinar organized by PANACeA on 20 November 2017 focused on Integration of data sources at the request of several Interreg Med projects, with the objective of fostering the development of partnerships, knowledge exchange and a better coordination of activities among these initiatives dealing with environmental and biodiversity information in the Mediterranean.



Facilitated by the European Topic Centre of the University of Malaga (ETC-UMA) as lead partner in the Interreg Med Horizontal Project PANACeA on Biodiversity Protection, the structure of this working webinar consisted of a series of presentations on activities carried out by international initiatives related to EU and Mediterranean georeferenced biodiversity information sources including environmental indicators and pressures and a series of brief polls to collect comments from the audience, which are summarised at the end of this document.

Some 60 people including stakeholders in the MED Biodiversity Protection partnership and advisory organizations such as UNEP/RAC SPA and MedPAN, registered to listen to the presentations delivered by the following projects and relevant institutions:

PANACeA Emanuele Mancosu ETC-UMA	Building a common language for the MED Platform to highlight Biodiversity Protection knowledge and measures by MED projects
AMAre Federica Foglini Istituto di Scienze Marine - Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche	The experience of COCONET in building a geoportal for Marine Protected Area management
EMODnet MedSea Checkpoint partnership Simona Simoncelli Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia	Marine data, metadata & products on European coastal and ocean waters • Designing new data products based on existing sources and new Interreg Med project findings (video)
SIMWESTMED Dominique Carval SHOM – French Hydrographic Office	Data needs and gaps in the EU Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Directive implementation related to transboundary issues

The initiatives presented addressed questions concerning current EU and Mediterranean data and research on environmental key aspects along the Mediterranean coast; geoportals and tools available to help identify areas of impact on biodiversity; actions to harmonize data and information standards for an effective and common information system across the region; and the need to raise awareness on the importance to integrate scientific research and structured monitoring data for better decision making and a holistic approach at regional level.

The following questions were discussed:

- Why is data sharing important?
- Where are the biggest challenges in data collection, harmonization and processing?

- What is the most frequent demanded data among users? Local, national, regional?
- How can data integration better help informed decision making by managers and authorities affecting biodiversity protection?
- Recommendations for better biodiversity protection data integration

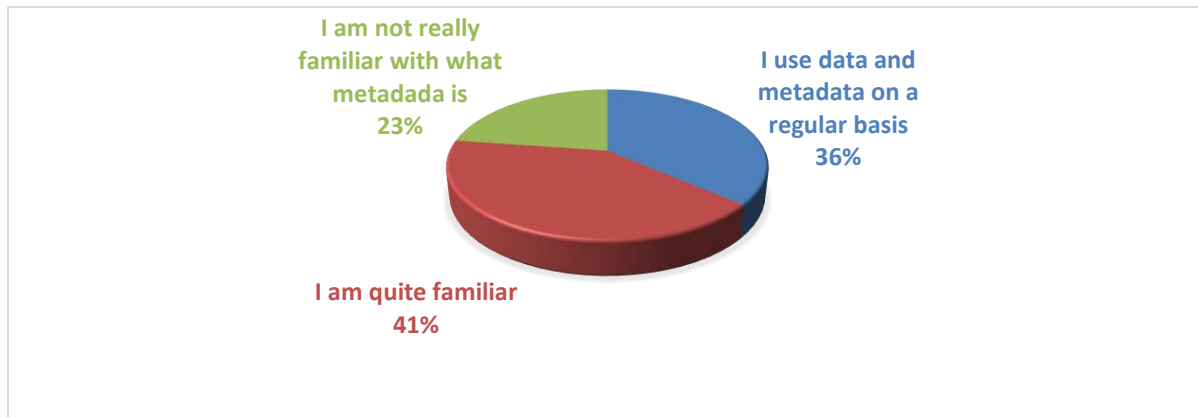
Among the conclusions reached during the webinar, participants highlighted several synergies towards building an Interreg Med collaborative framework towards:

- Sharing data and information obtained from latest research results and under way to complement each other;
- Transferring and building capacities for the use of standardised and tested monitoring and management measures and protocols, including joint governance considerations;
- Disseminating and giving visibility to current efforts to halt waste generation and find feasible solutions to better protect biodiversity and ecosystems;
- Raising awareness on activities being carried out in protected areas and to protect coastal and marine ecosystems;
- Spreading best monitoring and management practices to and involving additional protected areas beyond the Interreg Med pilot sites;
- Providing targeted information based on scientific research to practitioners for their management plans;
- Identifying and focusing on priority EU and Mediterranean biodiversity hotspots under most pressure to address relevant policies, strategies and instruments to jointly influence biodiversity protection in the Mediterranean.

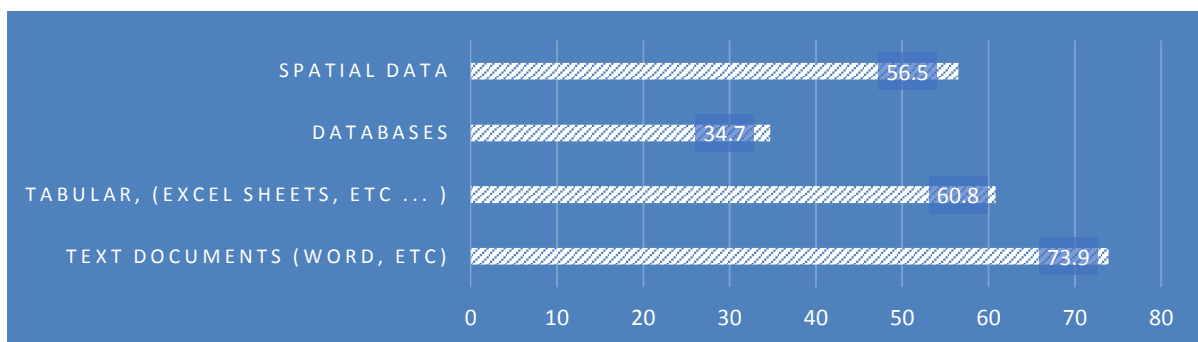
ANSWERS TO POLLS AND COMMENTS FROM WEBINAR PARTICIPANTS

POLL 1: ABOUT DATA AND USERS

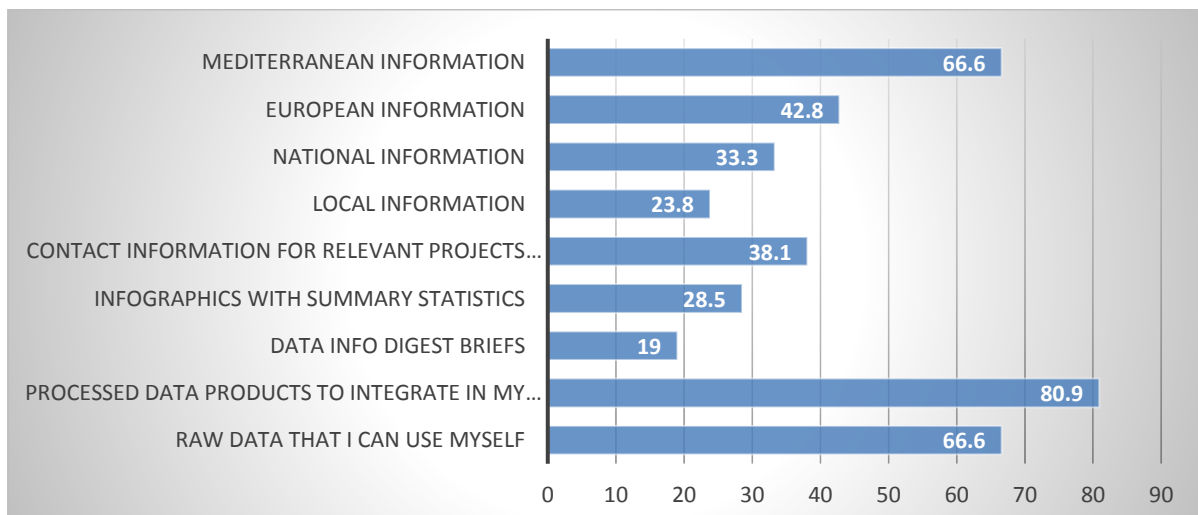
1. Are you familiar with the difference between data and metadata?



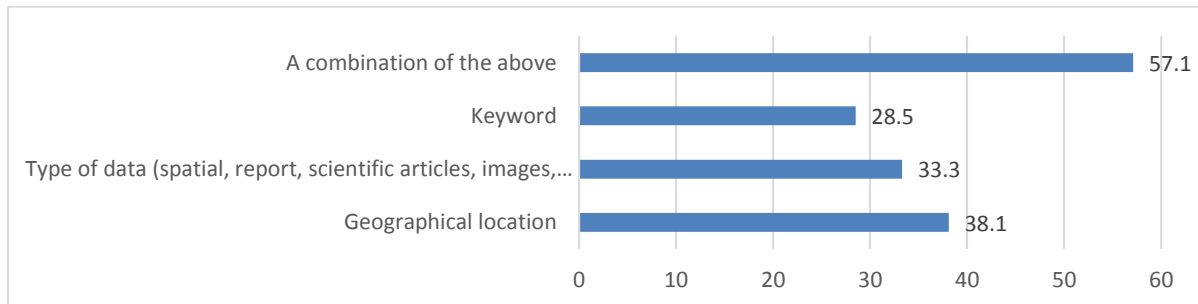
2. Do you produce data in your work? Which kind of data?



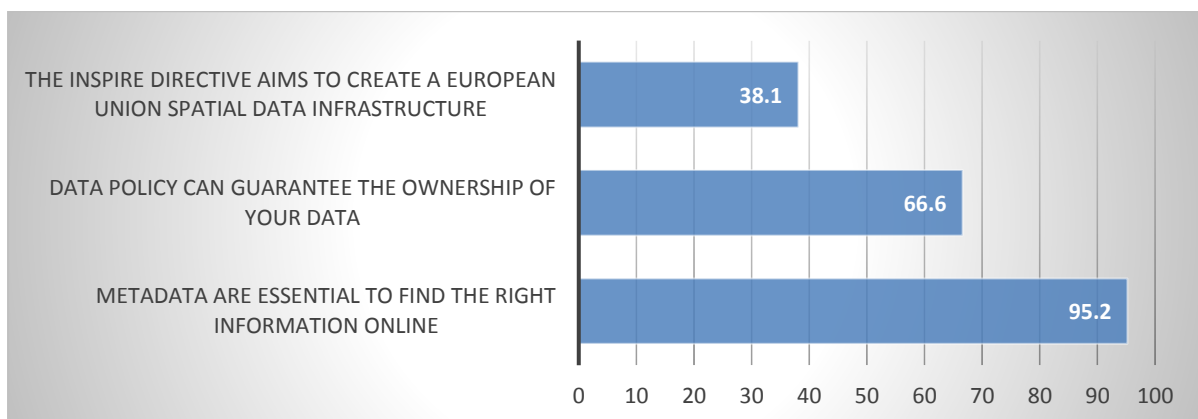
3. Which kind of information would you like to have access to?



4. When you search for data, which criteria do you use most?

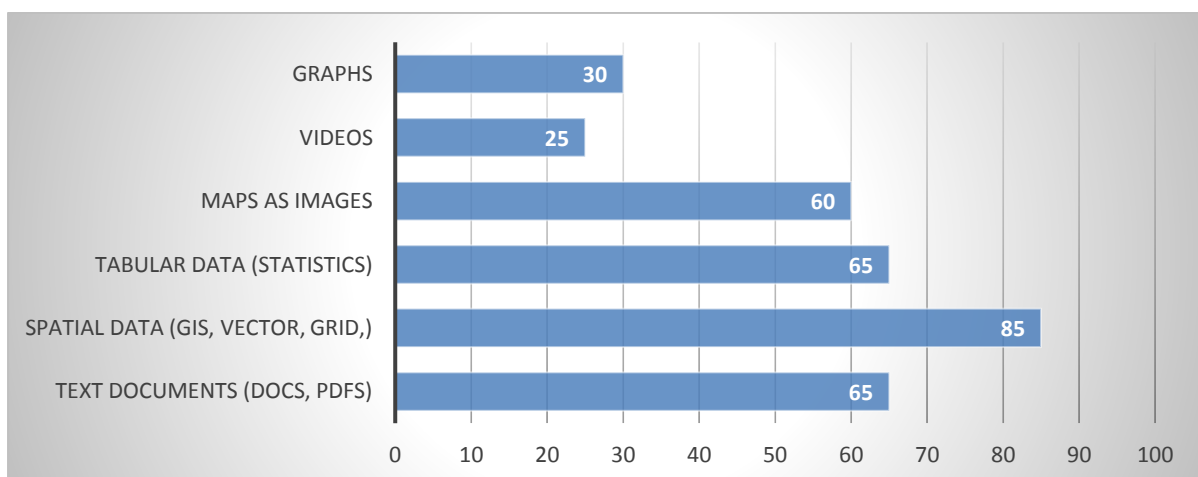


5. Did you know the following? (tick if affirmative)

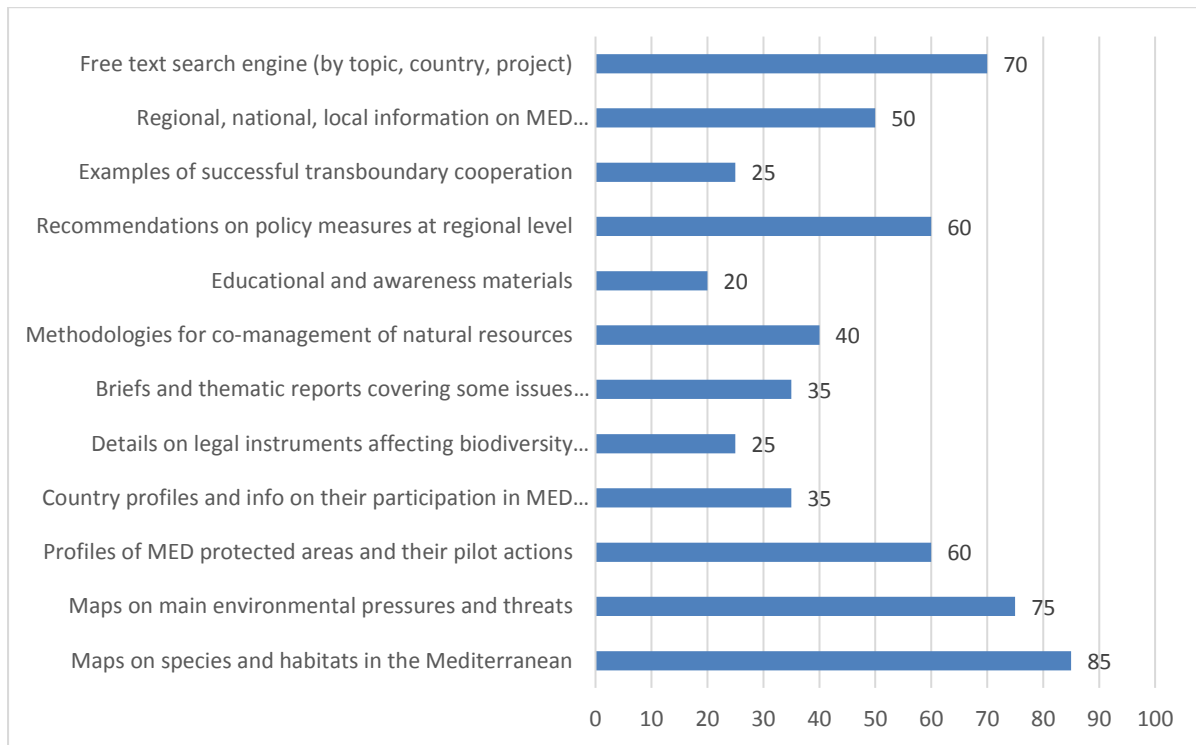


POLL 2: ABOUT FORMAT AND CONTENTS

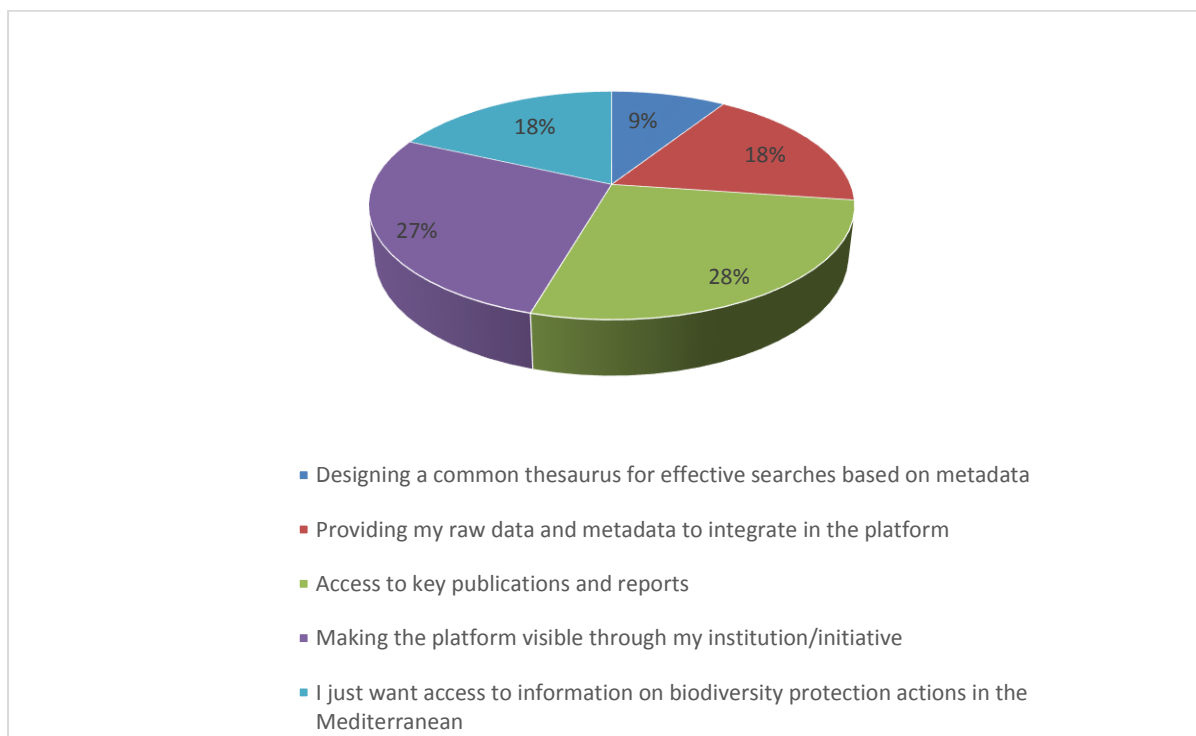
6. Which file formats to you consider most useful for your work?



7. What would you expect to find in the Interreg MED Biodiversity Protection Platform?

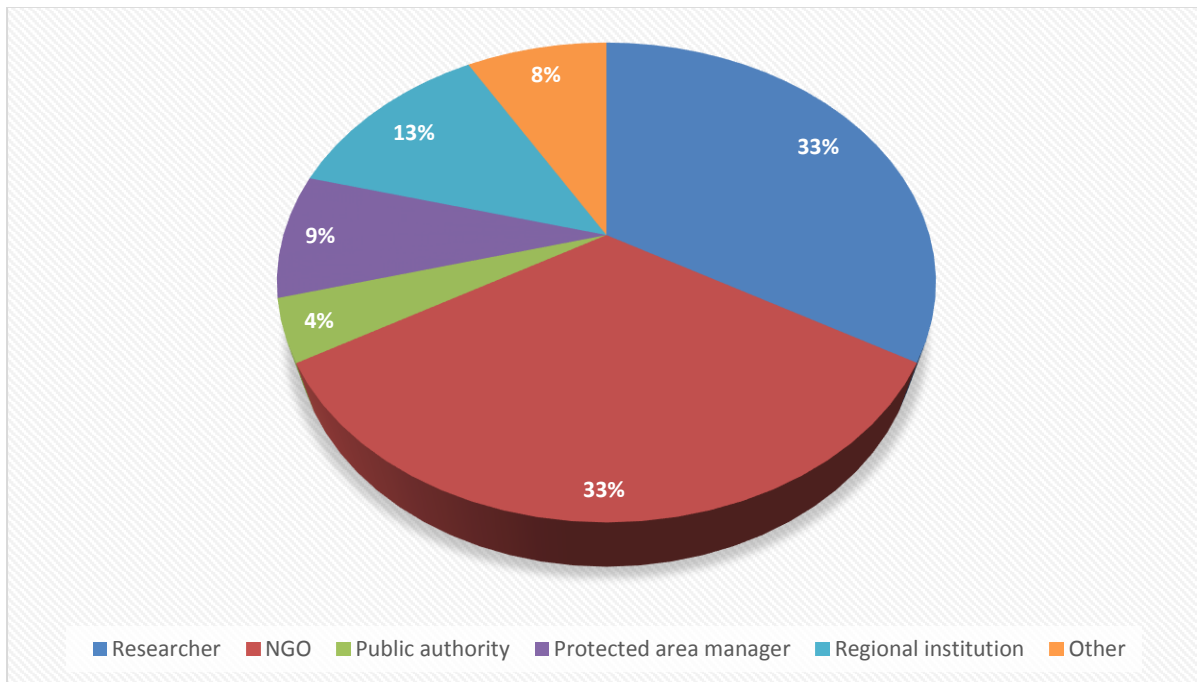


8. How and what would you like to contribute to the coming MED Platform?

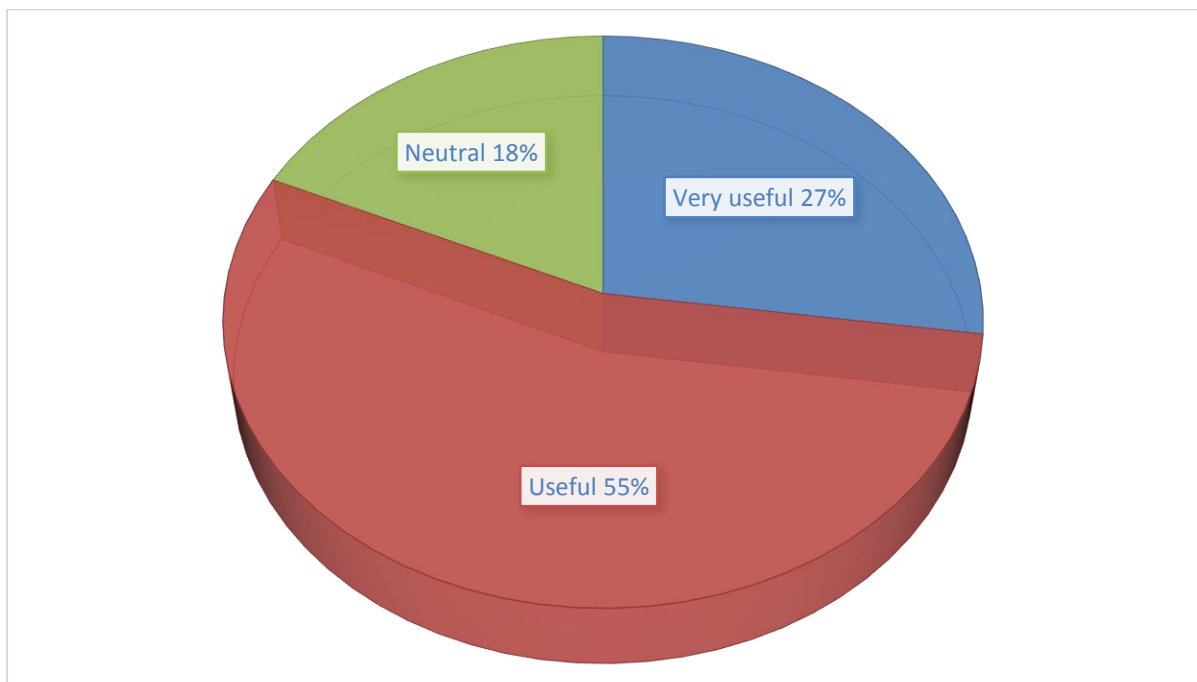


POLL 3: ABOUT WEBINAR AND PARTICIPANTS

9. Which kind of user are you representing?



10. Did you find this webinar useful?



11. Help us improve our future webinars by sending your comments and suggestions for the next topic webinar

- Thank you for this interesting webinar. Hope to cooperate in the next assessment of the Mediterranean. No specific comments regarding the webinar
- An interesting topic would be on how to get MPA managers involved in order to create a shared protocol for monitoring activity and GIS analysis of collected data
- Share more information on the content of the webinar with the save the date (agenda if possible, or short description)
- Thank you for the very interesting presentation. No comments, just thanks
- Presentations were a bit too short. Would have loved to have more time to go into more details for each presented platforms. But interesting anyway! ;-)
- Also the presentation was not exactly the same (schemes were missing). 15 minutes to present would have been more comfortable. Many thanks for this interesting exercise.
- Regardless technical problems with the sound of some speakers and participants, webinar was OK.

The full webinar is available from our [YouTube Channel](#).

More details on the projects and access to the presentations can be found by clicking on the name of the project and the title of the interventions in the programme provided at the beginning of this document.

NEXT STEPS

Taking into consideration the common areas of work among these and other initiatives under way at EU and Mediterranean level, PANACeA will promote further efforts to implement the recommendations received concerning in particular information affecting protected areas, namely to:

- Pull together current information sources regarding the main pressures on Mediterranean biodiversity to provide a more comprehensive overview of knowledge available and gaps identified concerning time series and spatial data;
- Inform, engage, and invite parallel initiatives such as [MAPAMED](#) by MedPAN and the Mediterranean [Marine Biodiversity Platform](#) by RAC/SPA to integrate and connect to the MED Interreg Biodiversity Protection Knowledge Platform and mutually share data and experience as appropriate;

- Look for specific data integration to be adapted, cost-effective and feasible for analysis and relevant to Marine Protected Areas (MPA) management towards biodiversity protection based on research, capacity building for practitioners and communication to policy makers;
- Provide interaction opportunities to researchers, protected area managers and policy makers to exchange on priorities and further needs for tackling data collection, harmonization and use in the Mediterranean at local and regional level;

To fulfil these recommendations, PANACeA will in the following weeks:

- launch a call for sources of information on biodiversity protection among selected institutional partners in Interreg Med and prepare a Mediterranean perspective on available data to be included in the MED Platform;
- organize visualization tools to showcase MED project activities in pilot sites in the MED Biodiversity Protection Platform for integration with other sources and consultation among users;
- coordinate the organization of an Interreg Med Biodiversity Protection meeting in 2018 to review progress, build on achievements to date and help plan common actions among the Interreg Med community of projects.

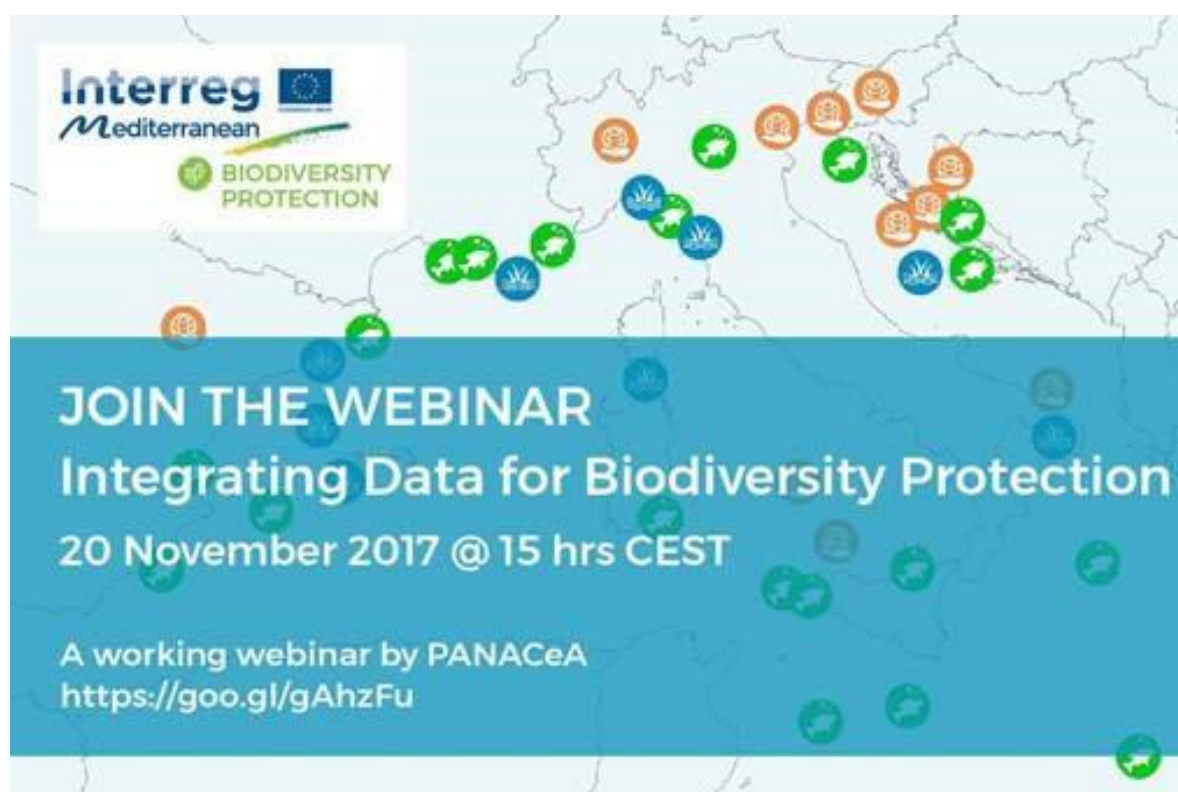
Additional information sources

The following list of data sources has been compiled to provide and give visibility to current information available on environmental data and biodiversity and will be complemented with additional documents as provided by the relevant projects:

- [Med-IAMER data layers:](#)
 - [Report with main methods, results, and annexes](#)
 - [Map viewer](#) (go to the left menu ☐ Med-IAMER)
 - [Factsheet on Protection](#)
 - [Factsheet on Legal frameworks](#)
 - [Factsheet on cumulative pressures \(comparing results of Micheli et al. 2013 to Med-IAMER\)](#)
- [MAPAMED](#) – Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean
- [SIMWESTMED project](#)
- [The EMODNet MedSea Check Point](#)
- [UNEP Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas \(RAC/SPA\) Platform](#)
- [WebGIS CocoNet](#)

About the Interreg MED Biodiversity Protection Platform

- [Brief description](#)
- [Factsheet](#)



<https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/>

BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION
STRENGTHENING BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

Project co-financed by the European
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panacea-med@uma.es

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