



Promoting multilevel governance for tuning up biodiversity protection in marine areas

TUNE UP

Priority Axis 3: Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural
resources

3.2: To maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems through strengthening the
management and networking of protected areas

Deliverable 2.2.3

Summary of project results

Project facts

TUNE UP partnership

The project TUNE UP was implemented by 12 partners from 7 countries around the Mediterranean Sea particularly Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Albania, Slovenia and Montenegro in 10 pilot areas. These sites around the Mediterranean Sea have been selected as TUNE UP pilots since they are Marine Protected Areas Med (MPAs), designated as protected areas both at national and international level, including the Natura 2000 network, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, as well as the Unesco World Heritage and Biosphere Reserve network.



Partner	Name	Country	Pilot area
Lead Partner	ANATOLIKI S.A. – Organisation for Local Development (http://anatoliki.gr/en/)	Greece	Thermaikos Gulf
PP1	FAMP - Andalusian Federation of Towns and Provinces (http://www.famp.es/es/)	Spain	Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park
PP2	MedWet - Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (https://medwet.org/)	France	
PP3	MEDSEA - Mediterranean Sea and Coast Foundation (http://www.medseafoundation.org/index.php/it/)	Italy	Penisola del Sinis – Isola di Mal di Ventre »
PP4	MTE - Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Albania (http://www.mjedisi.gov.al/)	Albania	Marine Park of Sazan - Karaburun
PP5	ZRC SAZU - Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (https://www.zrc-sazu.si/en)	Slovenia	Sečovlje Salina Nature Park
PP6	SEO/BirdLife - Spanish Ornithological Society (https://seo.org/)	Spain	Albufera de Valencia
PP7	TDV – Tour du Valat Foundation (https://tourduvalat.org/en/)	France	Former Saltworks of Camargue
PP8	UOM - University of Montenegro - Institute for marine biology (https://www.ucg.ac.me/ibm/)	Montenegro	Kotor-Risan Bay
PP9	Management Unit of Acheloos Valley and Amvrakikos Gulf- Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency - N.E.C.C.A. ¹ (https://necca.gov.gr/en/home/)	Greece	Amvrakikos Gulf

¹ On February 2022 there was a change to the legal framework of one of Tune Up partners. Amvrakikos Gulf-Lefkada Management Agency incorporated into the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency - N.E.C.C.A. as a unit named “Management Unit of Acheloos Valley and Amvrakikos Gulf Protected Areas”.

Partner	Name	Country	Pilot area
PP10	UNIROMA3 - University of Roma Tre - Department of architecture (https://architettura.uniroma3.it/)	Italy	Ventotene and Santo Stefano Islands
PP11	AQP – AQUAPROGRAM srl (http://www.aquaprogram.it/)	Italy	

Associated Partners

Each of the above-mentioned Project Partner is in close cooperation with the following Associated Partners

As. Partner	Name	Project partner which this partner is associated	Country
AP1	Andalusian Regional Ministry of the environment and territorial planning	FAMP	Spain
AP2	Marine Protected Area "Peninsula del Sinis - Isola di Mal di ventre"	MEDSEA	Italy
AP3	National Agency Protected Areas	MTE Albania	Albania
AP4	National Center for Environment, Tourism and Sustainable Development	MTE Albania	Albania
AP5	Management Unit of Koroneia-Volvi, Kerkini and Thermaikos National Parks and Protected Areas of Central Macedonia - Natural Environment Climate & Change Agency (N.E.C.C.A) ²	Anatoliki SA	Greece
AP6	Soline Pridelava soli d.o.o.	ZRC SAZU	Slovenia

² On December 2021 there was a change to the legal framework of one of Tune Up Associated partners. Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas Management Agency incorporated into the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency - N.E.C.C.A. as a unit named "Management Unit of Koroneia-Volvi, Kerkini and Thermaikos National Parks and Protected Areas of Central Macedonia"

As. Partner	Name	Project partner which this partner is associated	Country
AP7	Generalitat Valenciana, Regional Office of Agriculture, Climate Change and Rural Development	SEO/Birdlife	Spain
AP8	French Coastal Conservation Agency	TDV	France
AP9	Municipality of Ventotene Public Authority	UNIROMA3	Italy
AP10	Lazio Region - Ufficio di scopo "piccoli comuni I contratti di fiume"	UNIROMA3	Italy
AP11	RomaNatura - Ente Regionale per la gestione del sistema delle aree naturali protette nel Comune di Roma	UNIROMA3	Italy
AP12	VENETO REGION - Area Tutela e Sviluppo del Territorio	UNIROMA3	Italy

Project duration

The duration of the program is 32 months. TUNE UP started on November 2019 and ended in June 2022.

TUNE UP Challenges

The Mediterranean Sea is acknowledged as one of the priority eco-regions and contains major biodiversity hotspots. In addition to its ecological value, the economic value of the Med biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides have been recognized as of great importance. A wide array of pressures (e.g. population growth, urbanisation, tourism exploitation, overfishing, pollution, shipping traffic, non-native species) is causing loss and fragmentation of Med marine and coastal habitats. Although action to halt biodiversity loss entails costs, biodiversity loss itself is costly for society, so each year some EU countries lose 3% of GDP due to the loss of marine biodiversity. Therefore, the role played by Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (Med MPAs) for biodiversity conservation and management of its ecosystem services is fundamental. Yet at present there are too few MPAs and not many of them are effectively managed. Furthermore, they are marked by a fragmentation of responsibilities, competences and tools, together with an overall complexity due to the layering of resources, functions and actors with conflicting interests.

TUNE UP approach-basic idea

TUNE UP addresses all these challenges by developing a multi-level/multi-stakeholders tool to tackle the need for a strategic and collaborative approach to Med MPAs management with the main goal of biodiversity conservation and sustainable local development. The basic idea of TUNE UP project was to exploit the flexibility and feasibility of the tool named “Environmental Contract methodology” by adapting and capitalizing the River/Wetland Contracts experience developed by the recently concluded INTERREG MED WETNET project (<https://wetnet.interreg-med.eu/>). The concept of the Environmental Contracts was born in France 40 years ago with the establishment of River Contracts as voluntary agreements to improve the management of water resources and stimulate the commitment of local stakeholders. They were extended around the country and adapted to bays, lakes and wetlands, later replicated in neighboring countries, including Belgium (1988) and Italy (early 2000s).

TUNE UP approach is based on vertical and horizontal subsidiarity, to achieve coordination among institutions at all involved levels, as well as to integrate funding, resources and plans.

TUNE UP goal and objectives

TUNE UP aims at overcoming the criticalities originating from the fragmentation in MPAs management, where orientations and objectives for the conservation are both interconnected and overlapping, jeopardizing biodiversity protection by enhancing:

- i) the effectiveness of management of MPAs in the Mediterranean area and
- ii) synergies, cooperation and networking among Mediterranean MPAs.

Indeed, TUNE UP intends to:

- limit raising conflicts between preservation issues and economic activities (e.g. agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, marine trade, tourism), but also between natural heritage valorisation and protection of environmental values and functions,
- ensure higher coordination among stakeholders and decision makers,
- strengthen the network of Med MPAs and improving marine and coastal biodiversity and finally
- enhance the goal of biodiversity protection

TUNE UP phases

TUNE UP followed specific phases with discrete steps and distinct expected outputs. Many steps and specific activities of the process initially planned to be carried out in live presence had to be adapted to a virtual mode due to the Covid-19 pandemic crisis.

-Phase 1. Testing (lead by TDV)

Each partner responsible for the corresponding pilot site, (except MedWet and Aquaprogram), ran in parallel a participatory process (in coordination with the MPA Managing Authorities as associated partners), basing on a Joint transnational methodology, with the active engagement of key stakeholders, both local and regional/national level.

-Phase 2. Transferring (lead by UNIROMA3)

To improve the effectiveness and to strengthen this participatory process, the knowledge and methodology produced during the WETNET project was transferred to TUNE UP project partners through exchanging and training activities including seminars, training courses, e-learning platforms and evaluation- resuming reports.

-Phase 3. Capitalisation (lead by MedWet):

This last phase is central in TUNE UP project and aims to build the coherent methodology and framework for institutional uptake of procedures and policies related to MPA governance in partners territories and in the Mediterranean. Project partners focused their efforts on mainstreaming activities to incorporate projects results and the tool itself into

Main results and outputs

Dissemination & Communication Outputs

One of the main outputs of TUNE UP project is the spread of knowledge acquired and lessons learnt during all its implementation phases both in the regions involved and beyond. This regards the organisation and performance of technical events (webinars, workshops and other local and international events) targeting a wide range of audience. Crucial element of these activities was the promotion of synergies with other networks, initiatives and projects which all share a common vision for the biodiversity preservation.

Since the beginning, the project was in close collaboration and coordination of actions with the horizontal project Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community (MBPC) and the Interreg Med Community. In this context technical factsheets, tool catalogues, best practices catalogues, videos and many more joint activities have enabled greater visibility of TUNE UP's results across regional, national and European networks of partners through the two Communities and the institutions that composed them.

The close and fruitful collaboration led to the inclusion of two TUNE UP tools the Environmental Contract in Marine Protected Areas and the Good practices database in the updated edition of the MBPC tools catalogue which is soon expected to be published.

Moreover, contributions of 4 TUNE UP pilots were included in the MBPC story maps collection. For more information on the TUNE UP pilots collection please follow the [link](#).



Last but not least a series of joint technical events took place such as the organisation of webinars

- “Mediterranean Wetlands and MPAs Governance experiences”.
- “Healthy wetlands: our best natural answer to the biodiversity, water and climate crisis”,
- “From policy to action with “environmental contracts”: a multi-stakeholder and multi-level governance tool for an effective governance of Mediterranean wetlands and MPAs”.

Furthermore the project was disseminated through publications in scientific journals and presentations in scientific conferences, In this context 4 capitalisation seminars were organized by MedWet (with the participation and support of project partners) focused on the scientific community without excluding other actors involved in the in the multilevel governance of MPAs.

1st capitalisation seminar

2nd capitalisation seminar

3rd capitalisation seminar

4th capitalisation seminar

Extra capitalisation publications

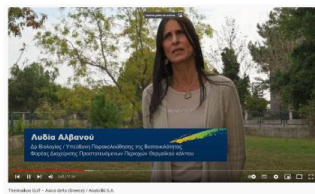
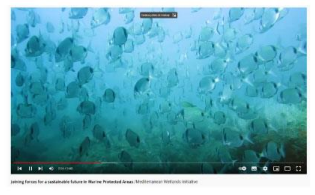
A scientific paper titled "Use of voluntary environmental contracts for wetland governance in the European Mediterranean region" authored by several project partners (namely Lisa Ernoul, Pablo Vera, Giancarlo Gusmaroli, Serena Muccitelli, Carolina Pozzi, Stefano Magaudda, Katarina Polajnar Horvat, Aleš Smrekar, Alessio Satta and Flavio Monti) is published in Marine and Freshwater Research journal as an extra deliverable of the “Capitalisation Phase”. Wetland Contracts have been adapted and applied in two consecutive European funded projects to test their replicability in the European Mediterranean region. The results demonstrate the benefit of this type of tool at the local scale and the need to further integrate these processes at national policy scale.

[Click here!](#)

An additional communication path is the project website, where an Interactive communication strategy was selected by continuously being fed with project news and events, newsletters, deliverables, videos as well as informational material available to download.

The project's social media accounts except from directly being connected to the website hosted 2 separate campaigns "the Project partner's week" to present the project partners and their pilot sites and the "Short video" to promote the 12 videos produced (one video per project partner) dedicated to the specific features of each pilot site. For the implementation of these campaigns a specific weekly timetable was followed as well as a common template for all posts in order to develop a universal recognizable character for this action.

YouTube channel [Click here !](#)



Testing outputs

Local MoUs – tool

The “Testing phase”, aimed to develop local Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) as a tool to improve governance and hence management policies in 10 pilot Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean Sea. The local MoUs are signed voluntary agreements between stakeholders that consist of a set of commonly agreed actions that deal with pressures, threats and conflicting interests related to the governance, environment and socio-economic development of the project pilot sites. To this end, the partnership engaged a variety of public and private stakeholders from all sectors and areas of activity in the selected MPAs, through a participatory process in the form of thematic or sectorial territorial labs. This process allowed participants to interact and finally end up with the definition of a common context of objectives and priorities (preferred scenario) for the conservation of the pilot MPAs. At each pilot site, the territorial labs were framed by local conferences, aimed to first introduce stakeholders to the project objectives and methodology, invite them to participate in the labs and then encourage them to sign the local MoU.

In this context in the 10 pilot MPAs 21 Local Conferences and 39 Territorial Labs were organized with the participation of more than 400 local stakeholders which led to the subscription of 10 Local MoUs.

Transferring outputs


Wetnet seminars (TdV Aquaprogram) – training course


To improve the effectiveness and to strengthen this participatory process, the knowledge and methodology produced during the recently concluded WETNET project was transferred to TUNE UP project partners through exchanging and training activities. The initial planning foresaw three field trips- seminars planned to be held in Arles, Valencia and Seville, where the WETNET partners TDV, SEO Birdlife and FAMP are respectively based. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis only the first seminar in Arles was implemented with physical presence on the 30th January 2020. The last two seminars have been re-planned and adapted to a virtual form as remote training activity. For this reason, an e-learning asynchronous platform was launched by ROMATRE to perform online the training seminars available to all partners upon user registration. The seminars provided a summary of the WETNET methodology contracts tested in Albufera lagoon by SEO Birdlife and Odiel marshes wetland by FAMP. The seminars included SEO and FAMP’s training materials (videos, ppt presentations and documents describing the pilot site and the participatory process experience and results) and were attended by all partners from August to October 2020.

Joint methodology for MPA Contracts implementation – tool


After the completion of the local participatory process all partners contributed to the transfer of the produced knowledge and know-how to different contexts and to potential stakeholders beyond TUNE UP pilot sites. To this end, the partnership evaluated local efforts derived from the drafting of the local MoUs. The results led to the elaboration of an intermediate output report on joint methodology for MPAs integrated management proposing a methodology for the implementation of Environmental Contracts in MPAs having as main benefits the mainstreaming of the Contract tool in the local/regional regulatory framework, the increase of the scientific knowledge regarding marine and coastal ecosystems and awareness raising on MPAs value, the intensified collaboration between local organisations and stakeholders.

The report is structured into 4 chapters

 **Chapter 1** - overview of the MPAs in the Mediterranean basin: current status, legal framework and policies and achievement of international targets

 **Chapter 2** – presentation of challenges for governance of Mediterranean coastal and marine protected areas

 **Chapter 3** – description of the Environmental Contract methodology for MPA governance

 **Chapter 4** – presentation of main issues that emerged during the implementation of Environmental Contract methodology in the 10 pilot sites of TUNE UP project

For enhancing its transferability the report has been published in the [open access scientific journal U3](#) – UrbanisticaTre (@urbanisticatre) and can be directly accessed.

E-learning platform

The “Marine Protected Area Contract: governance in action” course was developed with the aim to provide an overview of the MPA Contract methodology for students, researchers, practitioners and MPAs managers and technicians. The Architecture Department of UNIROMA 3, with the contribution of the project partners developed this open online interactive course available on the Roma Tre University platform upon user registration.

The course consists of 4 educational Modules with 13 Units presenting TUNE UP project, the features of MPAs, the concept of Environmental Contracts, the methodology implemented, and the networking required to improve MPAs governance. As previously mentioned the MBPC horizontal project contributed to this output by providing the international perspective on Biodiversity Protection.

Each Unit includes: a video presentation with English subtitles, a factsheet in English, translated in the partners’ languages and references.

At the end of each Module a test consisting of 5 questions for each Unit is provided. The tests and the course are passed with the achievement of 70% of the correct answers. If the first attempt does not reach 70% of correct answers, it is possible to respond for a second time. Before the course and after the course, the answer to short optional questionnaires is required. At the end of the course a statement of attendance is released to each attendee.

teaser video link: [here!](#)


Registration link: [here!](#)

Instructions on access and attendance of the training course [user's manual](#).

Summer school – training course

The Output 'Strategy for MPAs Multilevel Governance in Target regions' has been produced by Project Partners and (i) their Associated Partner / the managing authority of their pilot site; (ii) one other MPA in their region in order to increase the surface of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status during an online training workshop. The initial surface covered by the TUNE UP partnership pilots totals 216.492,00 ha, while the additional surface covers the 28,3% of it, raising the total surface engaged to 277.840,00 ha. The 2 following maps present the TUNE UP pilots surface compared to the additional MPAs surface.





The 3day online training course “[Online Summer School](#): MPAs Governance. Linking Theory and Practice aimed also to further capitalize the results of the joint methodology for MPA Contracts implementation. The course that lasted 3 days (29/9-01/10/2021) was organized by Roma Tre University and hosted Project and Associated Partners, MPA managers of the project pilot sites and of other adjoining MPAs as well as key experts. In the theoretical part of the training courses key experts in the fields of MPA management, policy, decision making, and science presented current strengths and weaknesses as well as future opportunities and threats for Mediterranean MPAs. During the practical sessions of the training courses participants focused on key topics, problems, criticalities, and solutions of the specific pilot sites and finally jointly agreed to the establishment of an Agenda for a Common Strategy on Mediterranean MPAs governance.

The Agenda for a Common Strategy of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Governance aims to provide a framework for cooperation based on joint objectives with a view to better promoting integrated governance and finally balancing natural protection and sustainable local development. The final proposed set of measures to pursue common objectives form two Strategies, one for the Eastern Mediterranean Region (Slovenia, Montenegro, Albania, Greece), and the other for the Western Mediterranean Region (Spain, France, Italy) based on the related territorial context experienced in the MPAs involved by TUNE UP.

Capitalisation outputs

Good practices database wikicoasting – IT platform

A tool developed to collect experiences of the 10 pilot sites shared through the online open platform CoastingWiki.

The already existing wikisource database of good practices on coastal governance developed by the Interreg Med Project Coasting (coastingwiki.eu) was enriched by adding a section related to MPA governance to guarantee a wide transferring of project results and capitalize the Contract methodology. Each project partner under the coordination of FAMP (COASTING Lead Partner) included a good practice related to its MPA Contract experience in this online open platform.

[Click here!](#)

Regional Policy Toolkit – tool

The Regional Policy Toolkit is the central piece of the Capitalization process since it addresses governance, financial and policy issues specific for each Region/Country and suitable to be capitalized at a higher level. Each PP developed its own Toolkit in agreement with local authorities in charge of local MPAs management and regional authorities, resulting in 10 units produced (one per each target area and PP). The tool can be used as a “user’s manual” to prepare, develop and implement an environmental contract suitable for MPAs. Each unit included the basic approach and methodology, the implementation steps, the potential participants and their role, the legal framework & regional instruments as well as the economic resources and funding opportunities necessary to create and support a framework for the environmental contracts.

Regional MoUs – tool

To capitalise the process applied at the local scale project partners moved a step forward to upscale it to a regional or national level. To achieve this, 10 Capacity building seminars (one per each target area and PP) were organized where representatives of regional and/or national authorities and MPA managers were introduced to the content of the Regional Policy Toolkit and invited to recognize the value of the tool and/or uptake the tool into their regional policy instruments and regulations by signing a Regional Memorandum of Understanding.

Finally in the target area of Lazio region the River Contracts regional law has been extended to MPAs governance by recognizing the Marine Protected Area Contract, introduced by TUNE UP project as a voluntary and negotiated tool of multilevel governance for the protection and management of MPAs.

The summary of the joint capitalisation efforts of all partners, the key findings, lessons learnt and recommendations are presented in two friendly readable documents. The booklets are available to download here



Policy Toolkit for environmental contracts in Marine Protected Areas planning and management processes.



Recommendations for an effective and collaborative governance of MPA at Mediterranean level



Lessons learnt

The assessment of the process towards the development of the environmental contract methodology by TUNE UP project ended up in important conclusions and lessons learnt. The results of the project strongly highlighted the value of the environmental contract as a voluntary tool for sustainable management of an MPA by bringing stakeholders together to build a common vision in order to balance environmental protection and economic development. The approach and the key features must meet some minimum requirements to assure the effectiveness of the tool and its proper integration in the legislative framework.

First of all, a participative, inclusive and proactive process with the engagement of as many as possible stakeholders including those not directly dependent on the marine environment must be established to assure a common working method for sharing knowledge and information, interests, goals and commitments among local communities. The promotion of constant communication and exchanges among stakeholders is necessary to improve the maintenance of interest of all stakeholders through the participatory process. The importance of building trust which in turn is generated with closeness and transparency of work and results and the facilitation of stakeholders to participate as a team and learn how to consensually merge all kinds of different point-of-views and interests promotes the achievement of multilevel coordination among sectors, institutions, strategies, policies, plans and funding.

In this context the value of the territorial labs as a process, especially on the local level, has proven to be very successful tool for the presentation of the whole process, for experts to present the challenges the pilot area faces and the most important, enabled participants to speak and introduced their view of the area. Another interesting common conclusion was the recognition of the value of a referencing database of best practices as a self-regulating mechanism of the participatory process by strengthening and expanding existing collaborating networks.

The typology of the proper integration of the tool in the legislative framework revealed an important common conclusion, the need for rigid regional cooperation with Mediterranean MPAs and the value of exchanging know-how among Med MPAs administrators. Also the observed spatial diversity among the pilot MPAs is ascribed to the degree of maturity on similar approaches at local and regional/national level.

More specifically, the existing regulatory framework in all project countries except the ones in France and Italy, do not foresee an applicable tool for legally binding environmental contracts. The complexity of the organisational structure, roles and responsibilities of local and regional authorities that are actively involved in decision making also raises difficulties in their engagement to the process and ability to sign a legally and financially binding document. To include representatives of the public sector but also include public-private partnerships in the agreement the initial template was modified to a voluntary Memorandum Understanding or Memorandum of Cooperation among signatories towards the agreed objectives and roadmap of actions instead of a formal agreement. The voluntary type of agreement without legal and financial commitment is clearly defined into the document and allowed for countries encountering legal limitations linked to the meaning of the term "Contract" to overcome these constraints. Even in the two advanced, in this area of interest, countries France and Italy, the long history and experience in implementing Environmental contracts for Rivers and Wetlands. needs a substantial period of time for legislative reform adaptations to include MPAs. The formalization of MoUs is considered as a crucial step as it starts the process by engaging stakeholders to a first level of commitment.



Furthermore the specific features of each MPA determine the process, the means and the context of the methodology. To overcome the variability in institutional and legal competence but also social and economic conditions the adoption of a generic widely adaptable model was considered as the most appropriate approach.



Legal framework

1.

Further encourage Member States to systematize the use of collaborative processes by promoting the appropriation of environmental contract tools and embedding in their regulations.

One of the solutions provided by the project was the formalisation of MoUs, which are not legally binding agreements, as a first commitment of the stakeholders in order to start the process of the Environmental Contract. The EU legal framework is in place to encourage the use of this governance model, but the process requires a flexible approach of Environmental Contracts individually tailored to each specific site.

2.

Introduce a common framework fostering a standard approach while allowing for flexibility.

The Environmental Contract is characterized by its flexibility and must therefore be able to adapt to the structural characteristics of the context, but also to the change produced by the contract itself. It is therefore important to support the effective and efficient implementation in the long term, starting with its recognition, as adaptable to transformations and changes in social and economic conditions and policies. It is advisable to consider the Environmental Contract as a tool widely adaptable flexible, open and continuously updated that will allow to adapt strategies and interventions to local needs and to better exploit the opportunities.

Financial framework

3.

Set up funding programs tailored for fostering environmental collaborative process.

The lack of financial commitment may hamper the operational implementation of the contract, which is really important for ensuring its effectiveness. Consequently, failure to comply with the obligations and/or commitments assumed by each of the parties will downgrade the success of collaboration. Dedicated funds should be allocated to the Action Plan, as it ensures the commitment of the actors and their long-term involvement. The process must be monitored and evaluated in order to be constantly adapted to the evolution of the territory.

4.

Foster a financial facility for ensuring the rewarding of environmental collaborative process

Since financial commitment is required, it is necessary to provide dedicated funding to launch the process, but also to support the use or creation of self-financing mechanisms that will eventually make it possible to make governance sustainable. One way of making the approach sustainable is then to promote financial incentives for facilitating the economic engagement of stakeholders.



Stakeholder empowerment

5.

Further encourage Member states to involve national, regional and local levels.

The involvement of competent authorities should be guaranteed and the decentralization of competences should be encouraged (which would ensure that European funds are obtained at the appropriate levels). The inclusion of the highest levels of decision-makers, provided they are properly trained in the proposed governance approach, would enable the tool to be incorporated into strategies and then into public policies. The designation of focal points for the coordination and facilitation would allow to mediate between the outcome of the governance and its legal framework, at multi-level regional and national authorities, and address decisions, in order to ensure efficiency, effectiveness and performance of the process even beyond the duration of the project.

6.

Encourage the transfer of expertise and experiences between actors and initiatives to improve the capacities of the Mediterranean community and foster its empowerment in the implementation of voluntary cooperation agreements.

Building capacity is an important prerequisite for an efficient implementation of the process as well as to obtain early social participation and community support. An information center should be created at the regional or European level in order to guarantee the transfer of knowledge and experience, as well as capacity-building and thus a better efficiency of the undertaken initiatives.



Finally TUNE UP teaches that governance, especially in protected areas, is about the long-term.



Governance is not a short-term project. TUNE UP is just the starting point!