

POSBEMED Interreg Mediterranean

Background

Posidonia oceanica is a Mediterranean endemic marine flowering plant (seagrass) forming extensive underwater meadows which are important contributors to the bioremediation of coastal waters and shoreline protection. *Posidonia* residues (withered leaves, fibers and rhizomes)

are regularly stranded and beached ashore, where they help reduce wind and swell wave energy and act as seedbanks for dune formation, increasing thus the overall resilience of the coast to natural and climate change effects. This natural capital, however, is often perceived as an



POSBEMED

Sustainable management of the systems

Posidonia-beaches in the Mediterranean region

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aesthetic problem, especially in highly-frequented tourist zones. To ensure that the coasts and beaches remain attractive for tourism, various and sometimes destructive practices (tractors and heavy machinery) are used to remove tons of this material, even in protected areas with fragile sandy beaches and dune systems.

Overall goal

POSBEMED will look at the management, conflicts and opportunities of the Mediterranean coast, particularly in areas where interdependence between seagrass meadows, dunes and beaches occurs, with a view

to provide a Mediterranean strategy and governance model for enhancing management effectiveness of these areas and beyond. By integrating the results of several past projects and examining management practices, stakeholders' perception and expectations, guidelines with innovative management tools will be produced to enhance local administrations and coastal managers' capacity across the Mediterranean. The results will assist in improving protection measures and enhancing management effectiveness on these connected habitats, while promoting local blue growth and nature-based solutions on the use and sustainable management of the seagrass banquettes.



Specific objectives

To identify and analyse the current management practices of Posidonia beaches/dunes systems and banquettes in Mediterranean countries and provide a socioeconomic evaluation synthesis of its ecosystem services.

To integrate and adapt tools for management of Posidonia beach/dunes in local sustainable growth and good practice guidelines for a holistic and integrated approach in conservation and management efforts.

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The Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (Anavissos, Greece) will coordinate the communication activities of the POSBEMED project, including the creation and sharing of posters, brochures, reports, website and facebook pages, organization of webinars, and participation in local and horizontal project events for the dissemination of the project's objectives and results. Based on input by all partners, HCMR will compile a GIS database of the available data regarding the distribution of coastal touristic activities, Posidonia oceanica meadows and banquettes, dune systems, and coastal protected areas in the Mediterranean region.

Partnership

This project is led by the Entente Interdépartementale de Démoustication Méditerranée (EID-MED, France) and involves four main partners from the Mediterranean basin: the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (Malaga, Spain), the IMC Foundation – International Marine Centre (Sardinia, Italy), ECO-logica srl (Bari, Italy) and HCMR – Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (Anavissos, Greece). **Other associated partners:** Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus, Larnaka Municipality in Cyprus, Regional Government of the Balearic Islands (Department of Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries), French Agency for Biodiversity, and the Municipality of Giovinazzo in Italy.

Budget

596,750 Euros (85% co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund)

Duration

From November 2016 until April 2018

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<http://posbemed.interreg-med.eu>

