

South East Europe Transnational Programme

Project Idea Form

Project idea's title

Common management of sea risks and sea safety in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

Priority

(choose priority and indicate the relative area of intervention)

☐ Priority Axis 1

AoI _____

☒ Priority Axis 2

AoI 2.1 "Integrated water management"

☐ Priority Axis 3

AoI _____

☐ Priority Axis 4

AoI _____

Project Idea Promoter

(name of the institution)

Regional Authority of Puglia (IT) – Department of Civil Protection

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Is the applicant the project's potential Lead Partner?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If not, is the potential Lead Partner already being chosen?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Background (main problems or challenges to be addressed)

The protection of the natural heritage represented by the marine resources has become one of the major European strategic priorities. The European Commission proposed a "Thematic Strategy on the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment" [COM(2005)504 final] on which it will be based the future EU maritime policy "for the achievement of the full economic potential of oceans and seas in harmony with the marine environment". According to this general framework, each Member State, in close cooperation with the relevant other Member States and third countries belonging to the same marine region, will be required to develop common strategies for the protection and the management of sea waters, in application of the 6th Environmental Action Programme (6th EAP) (Decision N. 1600/2002/EC of 22 July 2002). In particular, the 6th EAP and the Thematic Maritime Strategy foresees "**the promotion of cross-border environmental cooperation with neighbouring countries and regions** in order to pursue ambitious environmental policies at the international level".

The marine environment of the Mediterranean sea and in particular of the Adriatic and Black sea is under significant pressure due to high population density and the concentration of industries and other economic activities, including maritime traffic in general and oil tankers in particular. Those seas are interested by the presence of one of the most important oil routes, determining an exceptionally heavy risk of contamination; furthermore, increasing commercial trends along the main sea motorways represent a risk factor for the sea traffic with potential drawback factors for the environment and socio-economic impacts as well.

In particular, in the case of Adriatic sea, which is a narrow basin shared among many regions, it appears clear that a calamitous event occurring in one region could cause both immediate and long term effects in the environment of the whole sea, with deep socio-economic impacts for all coastal communities. The project goes in the direction of the establishment of common cross-border systems for the prevention of risks and the management of emergencies, in order to preserve the environment and to strengthen a common capacity of reaction to crises of the communities belonging to regions sharing the same sea.

Objectives (main and specific objectives to be achieved)

The project assumes, as **general objective**, the application of an unique model for the transnational coordination of the existing risk management institutions (Regional Administrations, Civil Protection services, coastal guards, etc.) in order to strengthen the institutional capacity of Institutions to prevent environmental and technologic risks across sea and coastal areas and to manage emergencies.

According to this general objective, the project has the following **specific objectives**:

- to define a common set of indicators for the evaluation of the presence of potential risks in the Adriatic area (e.g. points for the loading/unloading of oil, coastal industrial areas, inland sensitive points close to rivers, etc.);
- to define common plans of intervention and to promote their integration in the existing tools for territorial and spatial management;
- to share at interregional and cross-border level the existing means of intervention (boats, decontamination devices, human resources, etc.) in order to establish a common Adriatic task force;
- to increase the degree of intercommunication and to qualify the human resources employed at all level in the risk management chain;
- to establish a common cross-border permanent network for the monitoring of risks, and a common “early warning” system based on common criteria, also with the use of innovative ICT;
- to increase the awareness of populations living in threatened areas about behaviours to be adopted in case of natural or technological disaster.

Main foreseen activities

The project will reach the above mentioned objectives through the realization of activities which will be addressed to:

- the prevention of risks;
- the intervention and remediation in case of disaster;
- the improvement of policies.

Some activities having specific regional impact (like regional monitoring systems and joint exercises to improve reaction capacities) will be implemented by grouping those partner that belong to the same sea, according to sub-areas of cooperation (i.e. for Adriatic seas’ partners; Black sea’s partners).

Action 1. Risk and sensitivity analysis

The action foresees the **analysis of the existing sources of risk** in the project area and the **presence of sensitive zones**, according to a common methodology and a shared set of indicators. The action will therefore consist in:

- definition of common methodologies, rules and indicators for the assessment of environmental and technological risk factors, including the sharing and standardization of existing maps of risks;
- definition of common methodologies, rules and indicators for the assessment of the degree of sensibility of areas under the environmental, economic and social point of views;
- analysis and mapping of existing sources of risks and environmental, social, economic sensitive areas in each region participating in the project, according to common standards;
- preparation of a common cross-border **database of risks and sensitive areas** (hot-areas) for the projects’ Region, which will be interfaced to a common Geographic Information System (GIS) freely available for all stakeholders.

Action 2. Emergency planning

The action is addressed to the establishment of an integrated plan of intervention in case of disaster, which contains the common elements to be shared by the intervention apparatus existing in each region involved in the project. The **transnational plans of emergency** will then be acknowledged by each region in its intervention plan. The preparation of the plan will include:

- the mapping of best-equipped points (e.g. sea rescue services, decontamination devices, first aid and reception points, helicopters and naval means, etc.) in the whole project area;
- the comparative analysis of the state of the art of systems and tools for the risk management (civil protection plans, etc.)

- the drafting of a common standardised protocol for the intervention in case of disaster
- the preparation of regional/local emergency plans specific for the characteristics of each involved territory, according to the common transnational plan of emergency.

Action 3. Risk monitoring and one common pilot action

The action foresees the implementation of activities aimed at the homogenization of the existing monitoring system of risks, in order to apply common standards for the detection of emergency situations. The action will consist in the specific in the definition of common parameters for the detection of risks (e.g. common protocols and devices of monitoring) and in the establishment of:

- **a network able to connect regional monitoring system** with the use of innovative Information and Communication Technologies. The network will allow to improve the early warning procedures in case of disaster, sensibly shorting the intervention times in case of disaster and so increasing the effectiveness of remediation means.
- **a inter-regional task force** composed by the representatives of the institutions involved in the prevention and management of risks in the Mediterranean and/or Black area, which will allow the connection between project results and territorial planning and management policies and tools.

Within this work package, the common pilot action regards the realization and testing of **one experimental software** matching info related to sea and weather conditions, hot-areas and best equipped areas (like disaster refugee areas) to send real time directive to ships when the hazards hit.

Action 4. Improvement of reaction capacity

In order to improve the reaction capacity to disasters, the action foresees the setting up of specific interregional and cross-border activities for the training of staff involved at all level of the emergency management chain. The action will consist in:

- training and exchange of staff among the bodies involved in the management of emergencies of the involved regions;
- preparation of comprehensive tools (books, booklets, video, etc.) for the information of volunteers involved in civil protection activities;
- organization of transnational exercises (sea disasters simulations) for the “in field” training of the staff and for the testing of operative procedures, protocols of intervention, effectiveness of risk management chains, etc.

Action 5. Communication Strategy and information campaign

The action foresees the realization of a Communication Strategy able to increase the awareness of stakeholders (like shipping companies) and population about risks and emergency plans related to the sea environment, with particular attention to those populations living in risky or sensitive areas.

The action will also allow to replicate the plans and methodologies carried out within the project in other European regions.

The action will include the preparation of a project web-site though which it will be possible to consult the database and the GIS prepared within the project. It is also foreseen the preparation of publications, as well as the organization of events for the dissemination of project findings.

Action 6. Project Management

The action includes the technical and financial management activities and the reporting and monitoring activities. Within the action it is foreseen the establishment of a project Cross-border Steering Committee (CSC), representing each partner, committed in taking all strategic decisions of the project.

Expected outputs and results

1. definition of common transnational methods to tackle emergencies in the sea;
2. benchmarking of the degree of sensibility of sea project areas under the environmental, economic and social point of views and mapping of the main hot areas through GIS;
3. definition of transnational plans of emergency (to be further adopted at regional level);
4. creation and/or improvement of regional Early Warning Systems;
5. maps of best-equipped points (i.e. sea disaster refugee areas)
6. establishment of a inter-regional task forces;
7. development and testing of a software to drive ships when hazards hit

8. organization of transnational exercises (sea disasters simulations);
9. organization of workshop aiming at training and staff-exchange;
10. realization of one project web-site and promotional / training materials (leaflet; paperboards; CD-ROM etc..)

Innovative character of the project idea

- Establish innovative means and resources to ensure the best emergency management;
- Providing broadly maps of hot-areas and best-equipped points
- Improve the reaction-capacity of the emergency corps through transnational and regional protocols of interventions;
- Increasing the skills to face the risk jointly and – at the same time – working towards common approaches to set prevention and risk mitigation initiatives.

Partnership

Partners involved at this stage

ERDF Partners	
IPA Partners	Primorsko-goranska County, (Croatia)
ENPI Partners*	

Partners requested

ERDF Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Administrations - Civil protection service - Coastal guard service - Scientific institutions
IPA Partners	
ENPI Partners	

Estimated Total Budget

3.000.000,00 €

Does your project idea foresee the application for the 10% rule*

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please, explain in detail what will it be used for and the relevance for the project	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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Estimated duration (in months)

36

- ☐ I would like my project's idea to be published on the Southeast Europe Transnational Programme's website and presented during the SEE kick off event.

* ENPI Funds won't be available for the 1st Call. Partners from Ukraine and Republic of Moldova can be involved by applying for the 10% rule.

* The 20% rule is not applicable for the 1st Call.