UNITED NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.21

UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

UNEP

9 August 2019
Original: English

Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019

Agenda Items 3 and 4: Progress Report on Activities Carried Out during the 2018–2019 Biennium and Financial Report for 2016–2017 and 2018–2019

Agenda Item 5: Specific Matters for Consideration and Action by the Meeting, including Draft Decisions

Draft Feasibility Study for a Transboundary CAMP Project between Albania and Italy (Otranto Strait area)

UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2019

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List of Acronyms

CAMP	Coastal Area Management Programme
CZ	Coastal Zone
EU	European Union
FS	Feasibility Study
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
Pap/RAC	Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
TORS	Terms Of Reference
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

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Draft Feasibility Study for a Transboundary CAMP Project between Albania and Italy (Otranto Strait area)

I. Introduction

Following the consultation of National Focal Points in Albania and Italy end of 2018, UN Environment/MAP and PAP/RAC decided to explore the possibility and opportunity of preparing and implementing a transboundary CAMP project for the Otranto Strait area.

The proposal of a transboundary CAMP Project for the Otranto Strait area was launched as part of the Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP) established in 1989 as a programme which is part of the Mediterranean Sea protection activities undertaken by the Contracting Parties to the "Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean", or the **Barcelona Convention.** The CAMP, as a component of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) - coordinated by the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (**PAP/RAC**), under the supervision of the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan (**UN Environment-MAP**) - is focused on the implementation of coastal management projects developed for pilot areas located in the Mediterranean. “Next cycle” of CAMP projects aims to “promote cross-border harmonisation of coastal management and common approaches towards implementation of obligations (e.g. the ICZM Protocol and EU Directives)” and “expand the remit of CAMP to explicitly include at least territorial waters and a marine spatial planning to align with UN and EU mechanisms that promote blue economy and planning development”.

Two national consultants have been recruited (one in each Country) to work in collaboration and prepare the present Feasibility Study, which examines and provides information on the following main objectives:

- Definition of the area for CAMP;
- Description of the area (geography, economic activity, main environmental issues, administrative set-up);
- Project activities proposals:
  a) definition of possible activities from the point of view of the national and local interests;
  b) definition of common activities that have transboundary character and need planning coordination;
- Description of the international context where CAMP could be implemented;
- Assessment of the possibility for a long-term sustainability of the project; and
- Screening of the existing projects in the area with particular attention to the bilateral projects between Albania and Italy.

II. Definition of the area for CAMP

The proposed project area is defined considering the following **aspects**:

- transboundary context with other selected areas to test procedures and structures for an effective coordination of areas shared by different countries;
- territorial planning instruments and/or experience on management of coastal areas to ensure the feasibility of the CAMP project with existing resources;
- areas with significant naturalistic and environmental value to preserve their biodiversity (i.e. presence of protected natural areas);

- areas interested by economic activities characteristic of the coastal areas (such as tourism);
- areas where are identified interactions between EcAp EOs and elements of the ICZM Protocol focusing, mainly but not exclusively, on the EO1 and 2 (Biodiversity and NIS), EO9 and 10 (Contaminants and Marine and Coastal Litter), with particular attention on pollution and therefore marine litter;
- regional structures and/or processes for coastal management to increase the certainty of success of the project.

The proposed project area is therefore **geographically defined** by the **Strait of Otranto**, including the **continental shelf**, the **territorial sea** and **internal waters** of Italy and Albania, and the **adjacent coastal regions** (as shown in Figure 1), in particular the coastal unit of the competent **Vlora County** in Albania (as shown in Figure 2) and the Puglia Region coastal units of the competent Administrative **Provinces of Brindisi and Lecce** in Italy (as shown in Figure 3); as well as the **transboundary maritime waters**[1] or **high sea** included in the Strait of Otranto, avoiding areas for which marine boundaries are not yet agreed among countries, and consistently with the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and in accordance with international law.

The "channel" or "strait" of Otranto is an important "passageway" in terms of both geography and oceanography (between the eastern and western basins, the Adriatic and Ionian Seas), but does not constitute an international strait as defined by the UNCLOS. In fact, being its width (at Punta Palascìa, east of Salento) less than 72 kilometres (45 mi), it does not follow the regime of the international straits, which their maximum breadth (i.e. less than, or equal to, twice the 12 nautical miles of the territorial sea between two opposite baselines) of 24 nautical miles, lying in the territorial sea of one State (or more) and used by international navigation. Thus, the Otranto Strait comes under the legal regimes of the high sea (or EEZ when it will be established).

Figure 1 – The proposed Strait of Otranto area for CAMP (Google Map, 2019).

[1] See the Barcelona Convention, article 1: "*Geographical coverage*. For the purposes of this Convention, the Mediterranean Sea Area shall mean **the maritime waters of the Mediterranean Sea proper**, including its gulfs and seas, bounded to the west by the meridian passing through Cape Spartel lighthouse, at the entrance of the Straits of Gibraltar, and to the east by the southern limits of the Straits of the Dardanelles between Mehmetcik and Kumkale lighthouses."

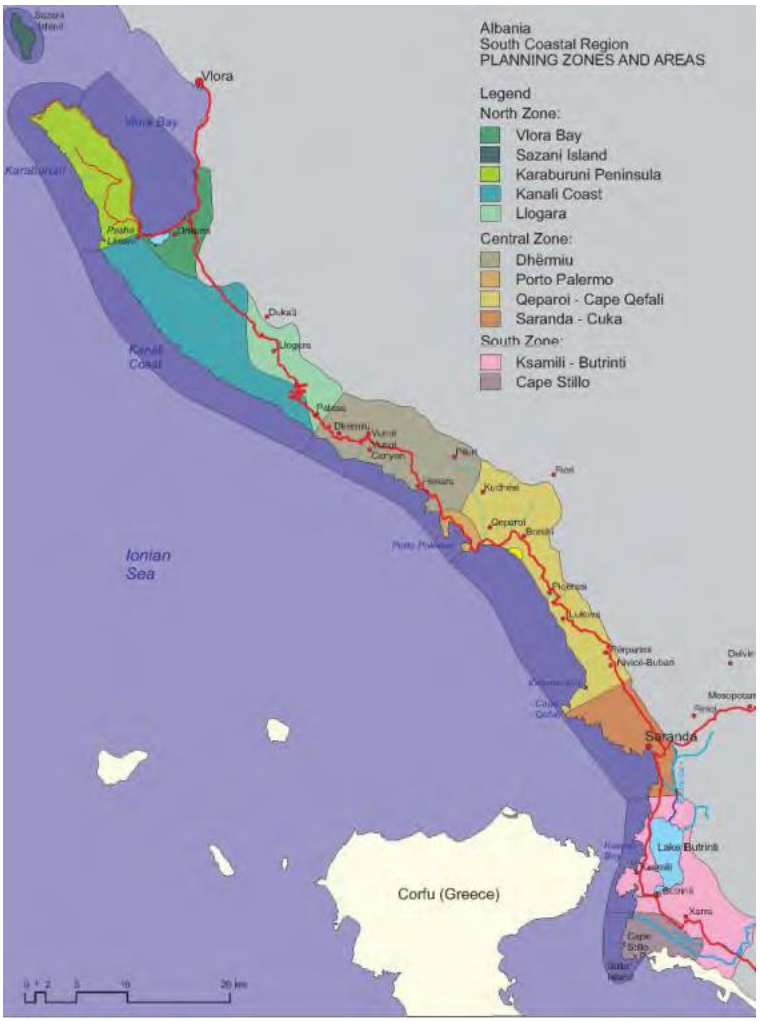


Figure 2 – The adjacent coastal area of Vlora Qark related to the report.

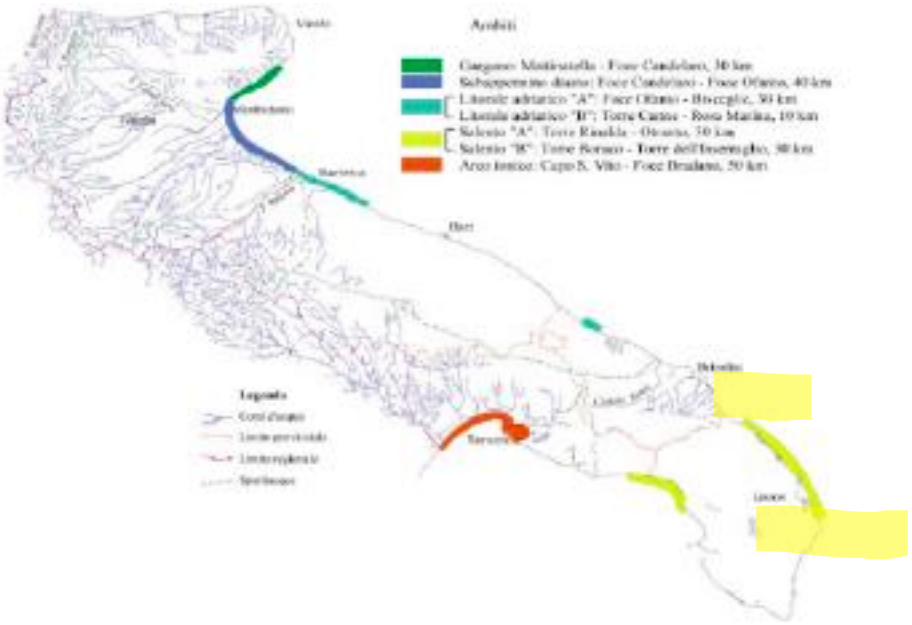


Figure 3 – The adjacent coastal area of Puglia related to the report. Source: Puglia Region, Preliminary studies for basin Plans.

Legal note

Both Albania and Italy claimed a 12 nm **Territorial Sea** (Albanian legislation dated 24 March 1990, Italy by Law No. 359 of 14 August 1974). Italy also claimed a 12nm **contiguous zone** for customs purposes by Law N0. 1424 of 25 September 1940. Finally, both of them have made claims to continental shelf, where coastal States are entitled to sovereign jurisdiction over the living and no-living resources of the seabed and subsoil of their area, Albania by Decree No. 4650 of 9 March 1970, Italy by Law No. 613 of 21 July 1967.

Both of them have not established an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), but Italy has adopted on 8 February 2006 Law No. 61 on the establishment of an **Ecological Protection Zone** beyond the outer limit of the territorial sea, as a minus of the EEZ. With law 61 the Italian jurisdiction in its EPZ is related to protection and preservation of marine environment (other than archaeological and historical heritage). The first of the implementing enactments is Decree of the President of the Republic of 27 October 2011, No. 209, which establishes an Ecological Protection Zone in the Nord-west Mediterranean Sea, Ligurian and Tyrrhennian Seas (*DPR 27 ottobre 2011, n. 209 'Regolamento recante istituzione di Zone di protezione ecologica del Mediterraneo nord-occidentale, del Mar Ligure e del Mar Tirreno'*).

Albania and Italy concluded an agreement to determine their respective areas of **Continental Shelf** in the southern Adriatic and the Otranto Channel on 18 December 1992 in Tirana. There was no call for an EEZ boundary, and the sea area divided is too wide for there to be any requirement to delimit a territorial sea boundary (Symmons, 1996:75). The border division between the two zones of continental shelf is determined by on the basis of the principle of equidistance that is expressed by the median line. The resulting boundary line is an equidistant line with some minor adjustments (Francolanci and Scovazzi, 1994: 232). As far as maritime boundaries between opposite Adriatic coastlines are concerned, only short additional segments are required to complete the system linking, which are dependent on the conclusion of trilateral agreements linking in adjacent boundary agreements between Albania-Montenegro and Albania Greece respectively which have not yet been concluded. ("The Maritime Boundaries of the Adriatic Sea", by Gerald Henry Blake, Duško Topalović, 1996).

Finally, it should be pointed out that the activities of transboundary character under this project shall be conducted without prejudice to the rights and obligations of coastal States, other States and international organizations in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and customary international law.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

In the present chapter a description of the main characteristics of the proposed CAMP Otranto area is presented, in particular on its geographical description and the main characteristics of the related hydrography and geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, as well as of history and cultural legacy, economic activities, main environmental issues including flora and fauna, institutional and legal set-up, with a focus on the existing spatial planning instruments and Area-Based Management Tools (ABMTs).

III.1 Geographical description of the area

III.1.1 Strait of Otranto

The Strait of Otranto (Albanian: Kanali i Otrantos; Italian: Canale d'Otranto) connects the Adriatic Sea with the Ionian Sea and separates Italy from Albania. Its width from Kepi i Gjuhës, Karaburun, Albania to Punta Palascìa, east of Salento is less than 72 kilometers (45 mi). The Strait is named after the Italian city of Otranto. The Straight of Otranto has a very strategic position and for centuries has been a key to control all traffic flow from Mediterranean to Adriatic seas. The South Adriatic Basin is

part of the complex Apennine foreland dating back at least to the Oligocene (Argnani et al., 1991). The general submarine morphology of this region approximates an irregular club-like shape basin reaching down to 1200 m, rimmed by steeped flanks, and narrowing southwards where it opens to the Ionian Sea (Taviani et al., 2016). More in detail, the morphology is quite complex and definitely asymmetrical. The coasts of the Strait of Otranto are sometimes broad and sandy (whose waters at this latitude are characterized by rare spectacular colours and transparency), sometimes rocky, with cliffs dropping into the sea. The most important sites of the Strait are the cities of Otranto, Castro, S. Maria of Leuca, Porto Badisco, Alimini Lakes, S. Cesarea Terme and Torre dell'Orso in Italy and Sazan Island and Bay of Vlora in Albania. There is quite a lot of **ship traffic flow** which makes this Strait a very sensitive area.

The presence of the characteristics of a semi-enclosed sea as defined in Article 122 of the 1982 UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) make the Adriatic a particularly suitable case to meet the provisions contained in Part IX (Article 23) of UNCLOS on cooperation of Coastal States in enclosed or semi-enclosed Seas (Sersic, 1992). In particular, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (as formulated by FAO in 1995) in coherence with UNCLOS and accounting for the Declaration of Cancun (1992), the Rio Declaration (1992), the provisions of the Agenda 21 of UNCED, the 1992 FAO Technical Consultation on High Sea Fishing, the 1984 FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development and other relevant international fisheries instruments (FAO and UN, 1998), further emphasizes the necessity, when in presence of shared stocks, for Coastal States to cooperate (also) for fisheries research and management (Mannini et al., 2003).

The limited size of the continental shelf, the variability and diversity of ecosystems, the presence of fish stocks of commercial interest, the seasonality of many species and their importance in terms of food and income, have allowed fishing, above all artisanal, to continue and resist the industrialization of the sector, representing an essential component of the socio-economic development of coastal areas and an incentive for the development of activities such as tourism, thanks to the preservation of traditions, customs and culinary habits.[2]

III.1.2 Albania – area of Vlora Qark

Albania is a Balkan peninsula country and has a favorable geographic position with the Adriatic and Ionian seas coastline. This position gives it a very favorable communication potential and also becomes the 'gateway' of the countries of Southeast Europe to the West and beyond. The Albanian part of the Strait of Otranto adjacent coast is part of the Vlora County. The coastal area of Vlora targeted consists of the coast of the Gulf of Vlora and the Ionian Coast (*Riviera shqiptare*). This area has also archaeological values since in ancient times, the northern part of Vlora's current county was populated by the Illyrian tribe, while the southern part was inhabited by the Epirus tribe of the Kaonas.

The coast of the **Gulf of Vlora** consists mostly of cliffs, generally cut into limestone with at times terrigenous intercalations. In the inner part of the gulf, inland of the small bay of Dukati, lies the Orikumi plain, filled with Quaternary marine deposits and alluvium. At this point there is a small gravel barred beach that separates the open sea from the lagoon of Pasha Limani. The western part of the gulf, the Karaburuni Peninsula, is oriented NW-SE and presents active rocky cliffs cut into limestones. In some small bays (Shën Jani and Ragozha) there are small gravel beaches at the toe of active cliffs.

About one-third of the Albanian coastline stretches along the **Ionian Sea**. The sea bed has a narrow continental shelf, on average 2.5 km wide, with the -5 m contour located at less than 30 m offshore and the -20 m at 200 m offshore. Erosion of cliffs is prevalent along the coastline with formation of pocket beaches or narrow gravel beaches at the base of slopes like at Lukova and Spile near Himara. The coast inside the Gulf of Butrinti has a different landscape, since the deposits of the Bistrica and

[2] Source: Regione Puglia Coastal Development Plan 2007/2014 - FEP.

Pavlla rivers have created a coastal plain at Vurgu. The headlands of St. Teodoro and Argila Point delimit a small bay where the town of Dhërmi is located. The surrounding cliffs consist of poorly consolidated breccias that erode feeding a long and wide beach in the centre of the bay, where there is the outfall of a small stream. The sea bed is quite steep with nearshore slopes in excess of 10 %. A weak longshore transport is directed northwards. Further to the south lies the small bay of Spile that is delimited by two headlands; on the northern one is the town of Himarë. The bay has a beach consisting of limestone gravel and pebbles, which is 20 m wide and divided in two parts by a small rock outcrop. An interesting aspect of this bay is the presence of two freshwater springs of karstic origin which outflow close to the beach. The nearshore sea bed is steep, but there are no signs of coastal instability. Ten kilometers southwards from Himarë lies the wide bay of Porto-Palermo, with high rocky cliffs cut into limestones and narrow pebble beaches. The two headlands at the bay's borders protect it from wave action during storms and the sea bed is steep attaining considerable water depths (20 m) close to shore.

The Gulf of Graves is located to the south of Mount Palermo, with a large coastal plain in the hinterland, where the town of Borsh is located. The area is of some agricultural importance because of plantations of olive and orange trees. The coastal plain was originated by the alluvium of a local stream that also created a small pebble beach,30 m wide. The foreshore is wide, with a gentle slope (6-7%).

The coast of the Albanian Epireous stretches from Saranda to Cape Stillo, with a N-S orientation. The Bay of Saranda is located here with a cliff coastline. Although the dominant wind direction is from the south, the largest waves are created by winds blowing from the NW. Sedimentary inputs into the bay are generated by erosion of the cliffs and to a smaller extent by input from the Cuka artificial channel, created to divert the Bistrica and Kalasa rivers.

The Gulf of Butrinti marks the southernmost part of the Albanian coastline, extending down to the Greek border and is quite different from the rest of the Ionian coast. The northern section of the gulf has rocky cliffs and shallow coastal waters, where a large spit is developed occluding part of the bay's entrance. The central part of the bay is a depression of tectonic origin where a lagoon has developed. The lagoon is bordered by calcareous hills, with the exception of its southern part where the Pavllës River is located. It is connected to the sea by a channel 1-2 km long and 7-8 m deep.

III.1.3 Italy – area of Puglia

Italy, a European country with a long Mediterranean coastline of 7,600 kilometres, is a peninsula situated in Southern Europe which develops into the central Mediterranean Sea. Its territory has considerable southward extension (47°-35°N, 6°-18°E). This peninsula is surrounded by the Ligurian, Tyrrhenian, Ionian and Adriatic Seas and has two main islands, Sardinia and Sicily, which form part of the national territory. In total, Italy has an area of 301,337 km^2 and a length of 1,932.2 km, which is subdivided into 20 administrative Regions; one of this is **Apulia** or **Puglia Region**. Italy currently comprises over 8 000 municipalities.

The Puglia region is located in the central Mediterranean basin, representing the Italian easternmost territories (between 14°56' E and 18°30' E Longitude - 41°56' N and 39°46' N Latitude). The Apulian coasts are surrounded by two seas, the southern Adriatic and the north western Ionian. The Adriatic coast of Puglia is usually rocky and cliff-like.

The Adriatic region is known to be a geologically active area and is affected by the presence of faults, usually small-scale and shallow (growth faults), probably associated with slow gravitational processes (creep). The continental slope shows frequent phenomena of gravitational instability and hosts inside it, both on the Italian and the Albanian side, deposits of remodelled sediment.

As far as bathymetry is concerned, the maximum depth is associated with the Adriatic Basin, with a depth ranging from 812 m in the Adriatic Basin, to the 790-126 m of the Italian slope, to 16-127 m of the Italian continental shelf.

Across the entire Adriatic Basin, the seabed is generally flat and without morphological features. The minimum depth is about 773 m, while the maximum depth is about 812 m. The slope is <1° along most of the Basin.

In the Italian continental slope the depths become less deep proceeding towards the west, from a depth of about 790 m to a depth of 126 m at the edge of the escarpment. The seabed degrades from 0.5 - 2° to a maximum of 14.5° at the slope break.

The seabed of the Italian continental shelf becomes less deep proceeding westward. It goes from a depth of 127 m to a depth of 16 m. The seabed consists of large areas of relatively flat seabed dotted with Mud Mounds, Volcanoes and Ridges crest.

The length of the Apulian coastline is 1,041 kilometres, the coast of which is being divided in 7 physiographic units according to the local topography: the surface waters hydrography, the coast type (high or low, rocky or sandy), the geological aspects, the environmental protection regime (Marine Protected Areas, S.C.I., S.P.Z., etc.) and other environmental features. The seven coastal physiographic units identified are named: U.F. 1 “Termoli – Testa del Gargano”; U.F. 2 “Testa del Gargano – Bari”; U.F. 3 “Bari – Brindisi”; U.F. 4 “Brindisi – Otranto”; U.F. 5 “Otranto – Gallipoli”; U.F. 6 “Gallipoli – Maruggio”; U.F. 7 “Maruggio - Roseto Capo Spulico” (see at the figure below). (SHAPE project, 2011-2013).

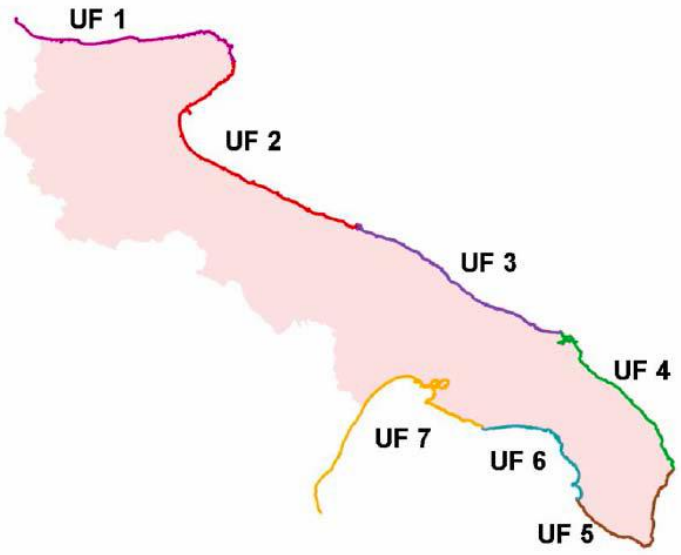


Figure 4 – Distribution of the coastal physiographic units in the Puglia Region (from the Puglia Regional Coast Plan, 2011).

The main physiographic units are therefore divided in n. 23 sub-units according to local and small-scale differences.

Another classification of the Apulian coasts is based on the presence and influence of the regional and interregional catchments and consists of five homogeneous areas (resolutions of the Puglia Government n. 1439 and n. 5485, dated 24.05.1993 and 14.11.1996 respectively), including “Salento” (from the Reale Canal, in the Adriatic Sea, to Torre dell’Ovo, in the Ionian Sea). (SHAPE project, 2011-2013).

The morphology of the Apulian Adriatic coast is low and sandy in the Northern part, from Ariver to Gargano promontory; therefore it becomes generally high and rocky in the Gargano promontory, with rare pocket beaches; low and sandy from Manfredonia to Trani, and uneven from Trani to Otranto (low rocky and/or sandy coast) and high and rocky from Otranto to S. Maria di Leuca. (SHAPE project, 2011-2013).

Along the coast there are rocky sections (like on the Gargano), cliffs (rocky coasts with sheer walls), but also sandy shores (e.g. along the Gulf of Taranto).
Puglia, after Emilia-Romagna, is the second Italian region with the largest presence of flat land with 10,417 square kilometres. The interior of the Region is mostly flat and hilly, without obvious contrasts between one area and another. There are 8 sub-regions: the Gargano and the Subappennino Dauno are the only mountainous areas of Puglia (with reliefs exceeding 1000-1100 meters); the Tavoliere delle Puglie, covering 4810 square kilometres, is the largest plain in Italy after the Po Valley; le Murge, a limestone plateau south of the Tavoliere that extends to the Salento greenhouses; the Land of Bari, between the Murge and the Adriatic Sea, is a flat or slightly undulating area; the Valle d'Itria, situated between the provinces of Bari, Brindisi and Taranto, is characterized by an alternation between valleys and undulations and above all by a very high sparse population (this is the area of greatest concentration of 'trulli'); the Tarantino Ionic Arch or 'bench of the ravines', follows the coast of the entire province, extending from the Murgian system, to the north, to the Salento peninsula, to the south, embracing a hilly area and a vast flat coastal area interspersed with' gravine '.

Finally, it has to be mentioned the Tremiti Archipelago, on the North-East off the coast of Gargano; the small Cheradi islands, near Taranto; and the island of Sant'Andrea, in front of the coast of Gallipoli.

The **Province of Lecce** with 815,597 inhabitants is the second most populous of Puglia after that of Bari. Facing east on the Adriatic Sea (Otranto Canal) and south-west on the Ionian Sea, it occupies the extremity southern Puglia and bordered to the northeast with the Province of Brindisi and to the north-west with the Province of Taranto. The province of Lecce, extended to 2,759.39 square kilometres (14.3% of the Apulian territory), is the third in terms of territorial extension of the Region after those of Foggia and Bari and is the easternmost in Italy.

The municipalities in the province that directly face the sea are 26 out of a total of 97.

The competent Maritime Compartment is that of Gallipoli, which extends from Punta Prosciutto, on the Ionian side, to Casalabate on the Adriatic.

Otranto is a coastal town in southern Italy’s Puglia Region. It is home to the 15th-century Aragonese Castle and 11th-century Otranto Cathedral. Nearby beaches include the popular Alimini Beach. Inland are two lakes: the saltwater Alimini Grande and spring-fed Alimini Piccolo. South is the Punta Palascìa lighthouse.

III.2 Hydrography and Geomorphology

III.2.1 Albania

The Albanian coastline has a total length of 476 km with access to the Adriatic and Ionian seas. Along its length there are 4 small islands and one big, Sazani. The Ionian coastline stretches from the Greek border to Vlora and is mostly rocky with some pebble or sandy beaches. The coast of Karaburun peninsula has steep cliffs, with depths near the shore and some caves with open or underwater access. In this sea space are the bays of Vlora and Saranda, which are very open bays. The greatest depths in the coastal area are those of the erosion or abrasion zone that includes the southern part of the coastline (from Vlora to Saranda).

In this area, geomorphology, lithological composition and structural construction of carbonate formations, which build the coastline, create spectacular landscapes and landscapes, combined with the Ionian Sea. As a result of these phenomena, there are some sea bays in this area, where the most prominent ones are: Bay of Biscay, Gramë, Himara, Porto-Palermo, Borsh, Kakome, and Saranda.

The coastal area is covered by swirling rivers, streams and streams of which the most important are: Dukati, Kudhës and Borsh in the northern part of the study area, and Bistrica, Kalasa and Pavllo in the southern part. The Butrint Lagoon is the most important and unique hydrographic unit. In addition, there are also some small and small rocks that swirl the area. The northern part is considered to be the poorest hydrological sub-sector in Albania. Meanwhile, the southern part of the area has a completely opposite hydrological network, one of the richest water resources in Albania.

III.2.2 Italy

The karst nature of most of the Apulian territory and the scarcity of rainfall make the region particularly poor in surface waterways. With the exception of Ofanto and Fortore, which have only part of their itinerary in Puglia, the Apulian rivers are characterized for the most part by short courses with a torrential character, as happens with Candelaro, Cervaro and Carapelle.

The natural lakes of the region are all coastal lakes, separated from the Adriatic Sea by narrow sandy cords. The largest are those of Lesina and Varano on the northern coast of the Gargano. In the territory of Manfredonia there is the wet area of the Salso lake, fed by the fresh waters of the Cervaro. The Saline of Margherita di Savoia is instead the residue of the so-called Salpi lake, attested in Roman times. Further south, near Otranto, there are the Alimini lakes.

Among the artificial reservoirs, Lake Occhito, upstream of the homonymous dam built on the river Fortore near the border with Molise. In Brindisi there is the reservoir of Cillarese, created in 1980 and today a protected oasis. More recent is the lake on the Locone stream, a tributary of the Ofanto, built in the territory of Minervino Murge on the border with Basilicata.

The hydrography of the region is characterised by water inflow from the Eastern Mediterranean (entering from the Otranto channel along the Eastern Adriatic coast) and fresh water runoff from Italian rivers. These features seasonally produce both latitudinal and longitudinal gradients in hydrographic characteristics along the basin (Buljan and Zore-Armanda, 1979; Artegiani et al., 1981).

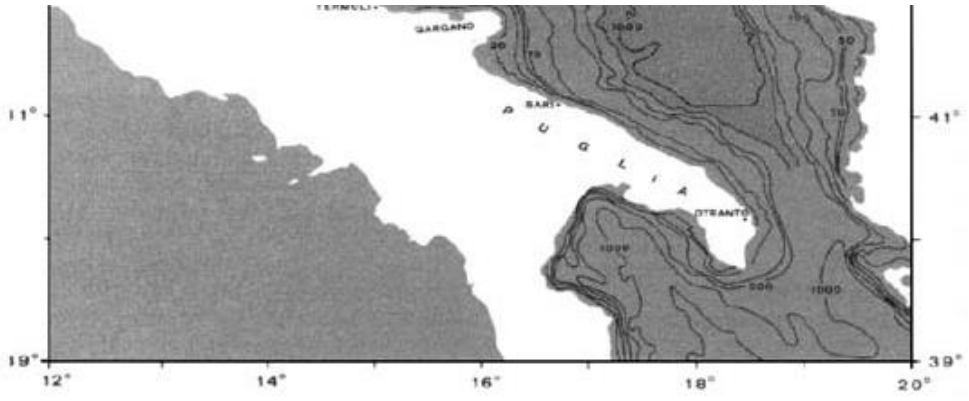


Figure 5 – The Adriatic Sea/Otranto Channel bathymetry (from Fonda Umani et al., 1990).

The **province of Lecce**, totally included in the Salento sub-region, is substantially flat.

The 222 km long coastal strip is characterized by fine sandy beaches, with outcrops of groundwater and dune basins, interspersed with long rocky stretches and high cliffs that sink into the sea. Along the southern Adriatic coast there are numerous natural caves such as the Grotta Zinzulusa.

The coastal basins of the Alimini Lakes (Alimini Grande and Alimini Piccolo), located north of Otranto, and the marshland of the Cesines are also part of the territory. The coastal strip of the province is covered with a lush Mediterranean vegetation and thick pine forests.

The coast of **Otranto** is mostly rocky, in a progressive state of erosion with some evident dangers of collapse.

As for the sandy coasts, the erosive processes underway are quite dated, so that in areas such as the one in front of the Valtur village the beach has long since disappeared (Damiani et al., 2008).

The area of the lakes is also in strong retreat. Several studies have been carried out on morphodynamics, especially in the area of Alimini, in which the erosion processes were analysed in function of the meteoromarine forcing (Lisi et al., 2011).

About the **geomorphology of Puglia**, the coastal development of Puglia, which extends for 985 km, is low and uniform along the Adriatic, except for the Gargano promontory, while along the Ionian it varies according to the different areas, passing from the high and rocky coast of Capo of Otranto and of Capo Santa Maria di Leuca to the depression of the Gulf of Taranto. The province with the greatest coastal development is Lecce.

The Province of Foggia is usually divided in three different sub-regions: Tavoliere delle Puglie, Gargano Promontory, and Dauni Mountains. Tavoliere is a large plateau, 80 km long and about 40 km wide, covering over 3,000 square km.

Gargano is a hilly peninsula (with a few summits going beyond the 1,000 m), which, thanks to its great environmental variety, is characterized by a great biodiversity. Dauni Mountains are different from the rest of the area both as far as geomorphology and climate are concerned: the latter is more similar to the climate of the Apennines rather than to the Mediterranean climate characterizing the other two sub-regions.

III.3 Geology and Hydrogeology

III.3.1 Italy, Puglia Region

From the geological point of view, proceeding from the sea towards the interior, the area presents geological outcrops belonging to different types of substrate. The gray-yellowish calcareous sands of the Holocene can be identified; the calcareous “tufa” formations of the Pleistocene, poorly permeable by coarse grain and rich in fossils; finally, Pliocene calcarenites and calcirudites are frequent, with a wealth of macrofossils such as gastropods and scallops.

Characteristic elements of the whole area are some particular outcropping water manifestations represented by puddles, springs and «ajsi» or «avisi» (natural cavities with the appearance of small lakes in which groundwater emerges) with a complex underground water circulation consisting of the “shallow” and “deep” aquifer with some interconnections. A series of coastal canals and basins, realized with hydraulic engineering interventions, complete the hydrogeological layout of the area.

III.4 History and cultural legacy

III.4.1 Albania

The Vlora region is a gathering of traditions interesting cultural, which are expressions of a prominent ethno-cultural area, called “Labëri”. These traditions can be found on many areas: architecture, folklore, music, handicraft, gastronomy etc. The county preserves the tradition of Iso-Polyphony, classified by UNESCO in 2005 as a masterpiece of oral non-materialistic heritage for the humanity. The county is also known for handicrafts, including traditional costumes of various communes, carpets

and handmade tapestries, woolen knitwear, knitwear, embroidery, work tools and musical instruments. Some interesting archaeological sites are the following: Butrinti, Finiqi, Aulona, Orikumi and the castles of Porto-Palermo, Lëkurës, Borsh etc.

III.4.2 Italy

The province of Lecce draws its origins from the ancient province of Terra d'Otranto. Terra d'Otranto has included the territories of the current provinces of Lecce, Taranto and Brindisi (with the exception of Fasano and Cisternino) since the 11th century. Until 1663 it also included the territory of Matera (Basilicata). Its capital was at first Otranto, but in the Norman period (XII century) it was replaced by Lecce. After the unification of Italy, the Land of Otranto changed its name to the Province of Lecce, and its territory was divided into the four districts of Lecce, Gallipoli, Brindisi and Taranto. Its dismemberment began in 1923, when the western part of the Province of Lecce was established as the Province of the Ionian (which would have been renamed the Province of Taranto in 1951). In 1927 it was instead deprived of the remaining northern territory, which was joined to two municipalities of the Province of Bari of the time (Fasano and Cisternino, formerly belonging to the Land of Bari) to form the Province of Brindisi.

Along the coast of Puglia there are architectural landmarks of historical and artistic importance, such as the Watching Towers that, starting from the Middle Ages, were built for defensive purposes against the Turks (e.g. Torre Rinalda, Torre Chianca). In the inland, then, there are several farms, 'masserie', such as those of Barone Vecchio, dating back to the mid-sixteenth century, and the 17th century 'Masseria of Rauccio'.

The area is rich in **archaeological** finds of great importance, like the fossil skeleton of the "Man from Altamura", a skeleton of hominid, entire and well preserved, who lived 150 thousand years ago.

The territory is also interesting, from an architectural point of view of the **rural environment**, with its charming buildings different for purpose and architectural style. Among the buildings linked to agricultural activities and stock rearing, the so-called "Poste" can be easily recognized: they are buildings surrounded by dry-stone walls, used above all by the shepherds to protect the animals from bad weather. The so-callled "Jazzi" are structures used for sheep rearing, situated in steep areas and with a southern exposure.

In Puglia, Albanian is spoken by some small communities, the **Arbëreshe**, which today can be quantified in around 12,500 units. They are the result of successive immigration from the Balkans, which took place mainly during two centuries (XV-XVII). Puglia was the scene of a war campaign conducted by Albanian soldiers led by the national hero Skanderbeg. The Foggia settlements could date back to that period (mid-fifteenth century). In the Tarantino the Albanians arrived about fifty years later but in much greater numbers. The Apulian centers where Albanian is habitually spoken, declared minority according to the law 482/99, are: Casalvecchio di Puglia (Kazallveqi in arbëreshë), with 1863 inhabitants; and Chieuti (Qefti), with 1,686 inhabitants, both in the province of Foggia; San Marzano di San Giuseppe (Shën Marcani), in the province of Taranto, with 9.228 inhabitants.

III.5 Economic Activity

III.5.1 Albania

Vlora is an important contributor to the Albanian economy. According to the Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) data, in 2016 Vlora county was the 5th largest contributor to the GDP with 5.9%. According to the same source, the structure of the Gross Added Value as per economic sector branches is the following:

- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery 25.5 %
- Commerce, Transportation, Hotels 19.4 %

- Extractive & Processing Industry (Energy, Water etc.) 16.5 %
- Public administration (Health, Education etc.) 10.8 %
- Construction 10.3 %
- Real estate 8.4 %
- Others 9.1 %

Vlora has a developing road infrastructure to meet the requirements for the touristic flux during the summer months and to improve the connection with the southern part Himara and Saranda. There is no train infrastructure for the coastal part and an airport is under consideration to be built north of Vlora city. Vlora has an important naval infrastructure by having both a commercial port inside the city and also another port in the north of Vlora city which has a fishing port and a terminal for hydrocarbons. A small touristic ports (marina) is situated in the Orikumi area. Saranda in the south has also a small commercial port (mainly dealing with ferry boats) and a small fishing port while in Himara there is a small port only for yachts and small-scale fishing vessels.

According to the 2014 data, there are 5937 enterprises in the Vlora county with 4673 registered as physical persons and 1264 as juridical persons.

One of the most important incomes for the area is the **tourism** sector. The whole coastal area is very known for the sun and sand tourism from May to September with different known areas such as Saranda, Orikum, Himarë, Dhërmi, Ksamil etc. Also, according to the national statistics of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, some of the most visited site in the Albanian territory are the Butrinti and Porto-Palermo castle (1st and 5th respectively in the summer season).

For the **agricultural** part, the most important area is that of the Zara Field along the Bistrica valley, and the Delvina field, which has potentials of grain, fruit, citrus and olive groves. For the Saranda area in Vlora there is a good potential in further development for the terraces rich in citrus and olive groves.

Fishing is very important for the area as there are two of the four Albanian fishing ports (Vlora and Saranda). In addition to the industrial fishing that is practiced in these ports, artisanal fishing is also practiced along the entire coast by a large number of small boats. Although on a lower and seasonal scale sport and recreational fishing is practiced. The area is known for the diversity of fish with high economic value. In the area of the bay of Vlora as well as in the north and south of the city of Saranda there are also some intensive cultivation of the gilthead seabream (*Sparus aurata*) and European seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*). Also, the cultivation of Mediterranean mussels (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*) is well known and practiced in the Butrint Lagoon. Although not massively snorkelling, scuba diving and sport fishing are common in this area.

The southern coastal area is also an area that is thought to have significant hydrocarbon reserves and for this purpose various drilling operations have been carried out (this area is labelled as Joni 5 in relation to the hydrocarbon drilling).

III.5.2 Italy

Puglia is one of the 3 Italian regions with the highest concentration of population in areas with a medium degree of urbanization (51.7 percent).

Table 1 – Land area, resident population and municipalities by altimetric area and coastal and non-coastal areas by region. Year 2017, land area in km2 (ISTAT, Italian Statistic Yearbook, 2018).

Region	Surface	Population	Municipalities

			Elevation zones			Coastal and non-coastal areas		Tot.
			Mountains	Hills	Plain	Coastal	Non-Coastal	
Puglia	19,541	4,048,242	8	70	180	67	191	258

As regards population and demographic dynamics, in the period 2001-2015 there is an evolution line characterized by a slight increase in population. The most representative age group is between 41 and 64 years (35%). This aspect represents a weakness from a structural point of view of the area due to the insufficient number of young people ready to enter the labour market.

Along the Apulian coastline there are many social activities that derive from the use of the coastal territory: tourism, recreation, settlement, fishing and aquaculture, industrial, port, etc.

The coexistence of such multiple uses often involves strong interactions both at the morphological level (coastal erosion), and at the chemical and biological level (alteration of sea and brackish waters) and of land degradation, with negative repercussions also at a socio-economic level.

From this complexity of the anthropic-environmental system derives the need to address these issues according to an organic approach that allows coordinating the operational proposals for the coastal zones.

The integrated management of the coastal zone and its enhancement through low environmental impact production forms is today one of the dominant themes of the territorial economic development strategy. This aspect represents a fundamental point, in consideration of the fact that Apulian coasts constitute a natural heritage still not degraded and among the most important at national level. In fact, the wide availability of coastal brackish water, the important groundwater table, the excellent quality of the water itself, both freshwater and marine, the presence of sea breasts and gulfs, determine a complex of favourable situations to activate prestigious actions that address the current crisis in the productive sector and favour its re-launch.

The main activity, however, is **tourism**, with a series of villages and accommodation facilities. The **tourism sector** has experienced in recent years a steady growth trend. From 2006 to 2010 the number of tourists has increased by +54.3%.

The **crops** that have the greatest impact on the economy (in particular in the Otranto area) are the olive trees, the rooted, wheat and vegetables. The olive trees provide oil exported all around the world.

The **local artisan production** present in the area is rich. The products are manufactured using various materials, mainly natural (e.g. the reed baskets, the coloured terracotta bells luck).

Most of the **port** are **shipping** and **tourist** and play a key role for national and international movement of boats.

It has also to be mentioned the Italian-Albanian project envisaging the construction of a **wind farm** southeast of Tirana, that will reach a full 500 megawatt capacity connected to the Italian network, with a 400 Kilovolt power line of equal power through the Otranto channel that will be accessible, for 20% of the capacity transport, also to other users. It will measure about 150 kilometres of which 130 under the sea. The expected investment is € 1.2 billion.[3]

The sea (especially in the Otranto area), among the cleanest in Italy, offers a wealth of fish. Fishing activity is widely practiced and there are many species of fish caught (mackerel, mullet, grouper, bream, snapper, sea bass, sea bream, mullet, redfish, octopus, squid, cuttlefish, sea urchins, etc.). The **fish economy**, with a gradual increase of the mariculture-aquaculture, represents a significant

[3] Source: Italian economic diplomacy, Minster of Foreign Affairs, n. 17 Year 2 - 22 December 2008.

component of the economic and productive structure of the Puglia Region, but suffers from the structural and market difficulties of the sector, as well as of other productive sectors. The Puglia Region boasts very ancient fishing traditions and is characterized by the remarkable importance assumed by the sea fishing sector, both for the productive aspect and for its relevance on the national market. In general, the prevailing fishing activities are those that take place within the coastal strip by boats of not large dimensions, also due to the fact that the continental shelf is restricted to a few miles. The large coastal extension of the Puglia Region has favoured the dislocation of different **ports**, organised in 6 Maritime Compartments, some of which stand out for the importance assumed from the commercial point of view or for fishing.

Starting from the extreme North of the Region, in the area of the Lower Adriatic, there are the Maritime Compartment of Manfredonia, with the navies of Manfredonia, Lesina, Rodi Garganico, Peschici, Vieste, Mattinata and Margherita di Savoia; the Maritime Compartment of Molfetta, with its port and the marinas of Barletta, Trani, Bisceglie and Giovinazzo; proceeding south, the Maritime Compartment of Bari, with its port to which the navies of Mola di Bari and Monopoli belong. Follows the Maritime Compartment of Brindisi, with the navies of Brindisi, Savelletri di Fasano and S. Pietro Vernotico. At the extreme South, Galchetto's Maritime Compartment to which belong some marineries located on the Adriatic side (San Foca, Otranto, Castro and Tricase) and others along the Ionian side (Leuca, Ugento, Gallipoli and Porto Cesareo).

The numerical strength of the **fishing fleet** of the Puglia region is equal to 1,737 boats or 12% of the national total, with a tonnage of 23,621 GT and 156,912 kW of engine power. These volumes place the Puglia Region, second only to Sicily as far as these numerical and structural characteristics are concerned (Mipaf-IREPA data, 2006). The Apulian fleet consists above all of small-sized boats, authorized to practice coastal fishing (D.P.R. n. 1639 of 02/10/1968 and Ministerial Decree 26/07/1995).

In particular, the Salento area is an important contributor to the Apulian economy. The Municipality of Otranto has commissioned the project for the expansion of the port, on the South side, but the project has been repeatedly administratively rejected. The existing port is rather exposed; in fact, the summer connection service of Otranto with Corfu, guaranteed by a hydrofoil that was moored there, was suppressed because the suspensions of the service due to bad weather were very recurrent and, ultimately, a not very profitable as an economic activity. There are also several seasonal mooring concessions on floating wharves, subject to litigation, against the law provision that the Superintendency monitors that the dealers dismantle the piers at the end of the summer season, in which the concession is circumscribed.

III.5.2.2 The local action groups-gruppi di azione locale (LAG-GAL) in Puglia Region

It is worth mentioning the **local action groups** (**LAGs**), present in Puglia in the number of 23, which have oriented their **Local Development Strategies** (**LDS**) and their programming to the innovation of local production systems of agri-food, artisan or manufacturing type, to the development of energy supply chains, to social promotion and urban redevelopment, passing by for the enhancement of cultural heritage and sustainable tourism, or so-called “slow”. The LAGs are generally organized in a consortium society, a partnership structure composed of subjects - public and private – with the aim to favour a rural area local development. The LAGs are beneficiaries of the contributions provided for by the LEADER community initiative program (Liaisons Entre Actions de Développment de l'Economie Rurale) and, in particular, they manage the financial contributions provided by the European Union and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund; develop rural development strategies; are responsible and promoters of the implementation of development strategies capable of realizing new forms of employment; promote the increase of the territorial, social and production chains; generate endogenous and lasting development dynamics; stimulate activities aimed at enhancing the distinctive features and competitive factors of each rural area.

The area LAG-GAL “Porta a Levante” falls within the administrative territories of 42 municipalities: Andrano, Aradeo, Bagnolo del Salento, Botrugno, Caprarica di Lecce, Castrignano dei Greci Castro, Collepasso, Corigliano d’Otranto, Cursi Cutrofiano, Diso, Giuggianello, Giurdignano, Maglie, Martignano, Melendugno, Melpignano, Minervino di Lecce, Muro Leccese, Neviano, Nociglia, Ortelle, Otranto, Palmariggi, Parabita, Poggiardo, San Cassiano, Sanarica, Sannicola, Santa Cesarea Terme, Scorrano, Seclì, Sogliano Cavour, Soleto, Spongano, Sternatia, Supersano, Surano, Tuglie, Uggiano La Chiesa, Vernole.

The territory concerned by the LDS covers an area of 855.08 square kilometres, corresponding to 4.4% of the total regional area. The whole territory under examination belongs to the province of Lecce.

Table 2 – Surfaces, density and population of the LAG area. Source: ISTAT, 2015.

N.	CODICE ISTAT	COMUNE Anno Fonte	SUPERFICIE KMQ ISTAT 2011	POPOLAZIONE ISTAT 2015	DENSITA' DELLA POPOLAZIONE ISTAT 2015
1	75005	Andrano	15,71	4.901	311,97
2	75006	Aradeo	8,58	9.597	1.118,53
3	75008	Bagnolo del Salento	6,74	1.857	275,52
4	75009	Botrugno	9,75	2.816	288,82
5	75013	Caprarica di Lecce	10,71	2.510	234,36
6	75018	Castrignano dei Greci	9,62	2.945	408,73
7	75096	Castro	4,56	2.457	538,82
8	75021	Collepasso	12,79	6.194	484,28
9	75023	Corigliano D'Otranto	28,41	5.852	205,98
10	75025	Cursi	8,36	9.140	500,84
11	75026	Cutrofiano	56,81	3.010	160,89
12	75027	Diso	11,42	1.230	263,57
13	75032	Giuggianello	10,27	1.962	119,77
14	75033	Giurdignano	14,04	14.532	139,74
15	75039	Maglie	22,66	1.682	641,31
16	75041	Martignano	6,49	9.900	259,17
17	75043	Melendugno	92,31	2.237	107,25
18	75043	Melpignano	11,1	3.675	24,23
19	75047	Minervino di Lecce	18,13	5.027	202,7
20	75051	Muro leccese	16,77	5.415	299,76
21	75053	Neviano	16,3	2.353	332,21
22	75054	Nociglia	11,13	2.328	211,41
23	75075	Ortelle	10,23	5.713	227,57
24	75057	Otranto	77,2	1.527	74
25	75058	Palmariggi	8,97	9.235	170,23
26	75059	Parabita	21,09	6.074	437,89
27	75061	Poggiardo	19,96	2.033	304,31
28	75095	San Cassiano	8,77	1.470	231,81
29	75067	Sanarica	13,02	5.924	112,9
30	75070	Sannicola	27,64	3.018	454,99
31	75072	Santa Cesarea Terme	26,82	7.008	112,53
32	75073	Scorrano	35,33	1.900	198,36
33	75074	Seclì	8,78	4.016	216,4
34	75075	Sogliano Cavour	5,33	5.509	753,47
35	75076	Soleto	30,46	3.740	180,86
36	75078	Spongano	12,42	2.357	301,13
37	75080	Sternatia	16,76	4.505	140,63
38	75081	Supersano	36,41	1.685	123,73
39	75082	Surano	8,99	5.252	187,43
40	75089	Tuglie	8,5	4.437	617,88
41	75091	Uggiano la Chiesa	14,46	7.200	306,85
42	75093	Vernole	61,28	4.901	117,49
totale			**855,08**	**184.223**	**202,29**

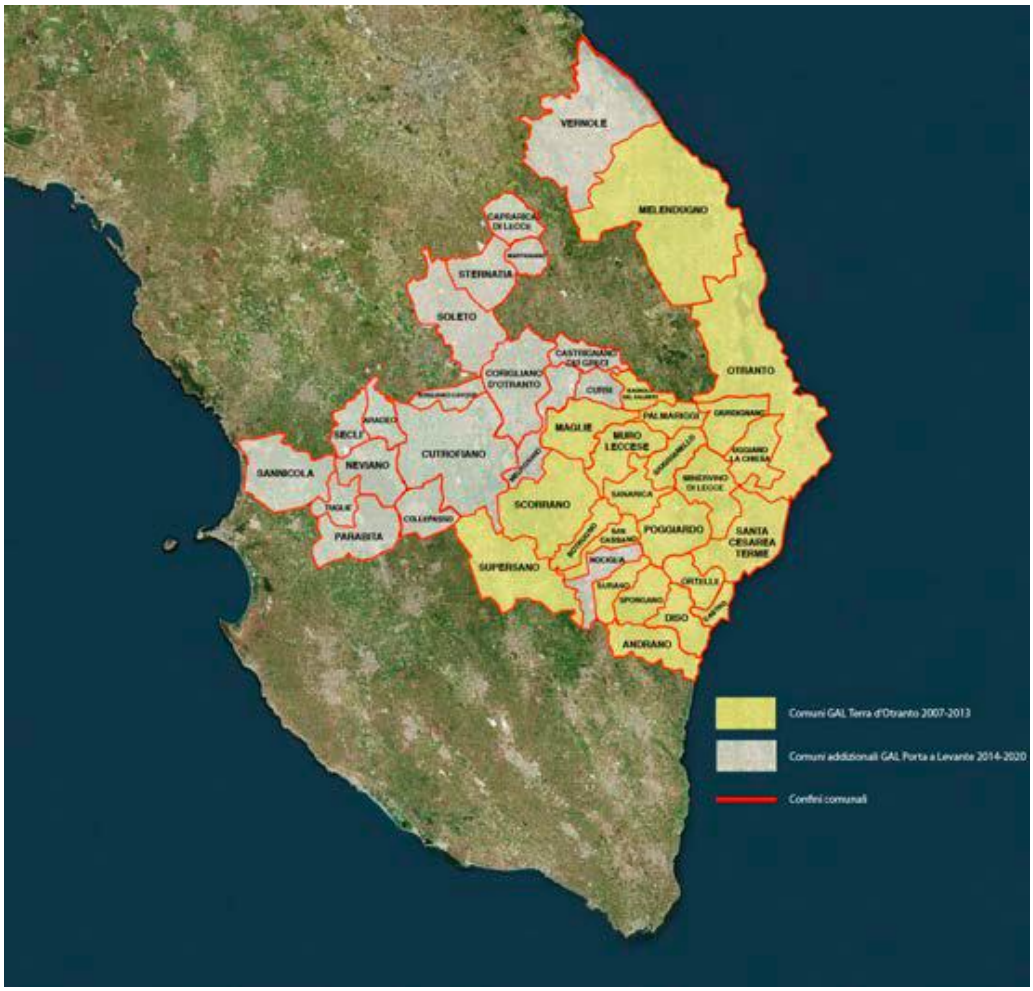


Figure 6 – Map of the LAG area. Source: planning documents 'GAL Porta Levante'.

Along the Adriatic coast are developed the municipalities of Otranto, Melendugno, Castro, Santa Cesarea Terme, Vernole, Diso and Andrano, for a total of 289.30 square kilometres.

III.6 Main Environmental Issues

III.6.1 Strait of Otranto

The EU has called several places on the Strait of Otranto "sites of Community interest" (SIC), for their environmental importance.

Due to very dense maritime traffic flowing in and out from the Mediterranean Sea to the Adriatic Sea, especially in the northern part where there are the biggest ports, this area is very sensitive to pollution caused by ships. For this reason, it is established an Adriatic Traffic Report System (ATRS), to monitor all ships sailing in and out of the Otranto Strait. "ATRS" means a system for traffic control in the Adriatic Sea, in which management is ensured jointly, each part for their competence, by Italian and Albanian authorities.

Additionally, a gas pipeline is planned to be built, crossing the Strait of Otranto, to bring Azerbaijani gas in Italy, through Greece and Albania, with serious repercussions for the environment, tourism and fishery.

III.6.2 Albania

Albania has made significant progress in expanding the protected area network from 5.2% of the country's territory in 2005 to 16% of the territory in 2014 and in 2018 has surpassed the 18% of the territory. Vlora county includes important biodiversity areas like the Llogora National Park, the Karaburun-Sazan maritime national park, the Butrinti National park etc. There are several important habitats in the area both on the coastal and maritime part. It is very important to mention that the coastal area in the Vlora country is the most important in Albania for the *Posidonia oceanica* meadows. We could mention some of the biocenosis of the mediolitoral such as the one dominated by *Lythophyllum byssoides* or the one of caves dominated by *Coralium rubrum* and some sponge's species.

The Maritime National Park Karaburun-Sazan is the only Albania's Marine Protected Area promulgated in 2010, with a total area of 12,570 ha. It stretches 1 nautical mile along the western and eastern coast of the Karaburun peninsula and 1 nautical mile around the island of Sazan (excluding the port area).

A list of the Protected Areas part of the Vlora coastal line is given in Table 3.

Table 3 – List of Protected Areas in the Vlora county coastline.

No.	Name of the Protected Area	Status of Management Plan
1	"Vjosë-Nartë"	Approved with the Order of the Minister of Environment No. 143, of 24.10.2005
2	"Llogara"-Kompleksi Karaburun"	Approved with the Order of the Minister of Environment No. 147, of 14.10.2005
3	PN "Gjiri i Porto Palermos - Llamani"	Still not approved as Protected Area
4	"Butrinti"	Approved with the Order of the Minister of Environment No. 404, of 09.06.2011
5	"Karaburun"	The area is approved with DCM No. 680 of 22.10.2004
6	"Karaburun – Sazan"	Approved with the Order of the Minister of Environment No. 750 of 24.11.2015

"Karaburun-Sazan" is a Marine Protected Area (IUCN Category II) with a total area of 122.7 km^2. Some of the important habitats are: (i) meadows of *Posidonia oceanica*; (ii) underwater cliffs; (iii) coralligenous formations; and (iv) underwater caves.

"Vjosë Nartë" is a Protected Landscape (IUCN Category V) with a total area of 15 km^2 and also is declared an Important Bird Area. Some of the important habitats are: (i) Vjosa river estuary; (ii) the coastal lagoons (Narta, Godulla and Limopuo); (iii) the coastal dunes with *Juniperus oxycedrus macrocarpa*; and (iv) Coastal dunes with *Pinus halepensis*, *P. pinea* and *P.pinaster*.

"Llogora" is a National Park (IUCN Category II) with a total area of 10.1 km^2. Some of the important habitats are: (i) black pine (*Pinus nigra palasiana*) forests mixed with boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*); (ii) Bosnian pine forests (*Pinus heldreichii* or *Pinus leucodermis*); (iii) forests with Bulgarian fir (*Abies borisii-regis*); and (iv) Pastures with *Elyno-Sesleteria*.

"Butrinti" is a National Park (IUCN Category II) with a total area of 94.24 km^2. Some of the important habitats are: (i) coastal lagoons and natural lakes (Butrinti lake and Bufi lake); (ii) rocky coast with mediterranean vegetation; (iii) mediterraenan salt marshes dominated by *Juncetalia maritimi*; and (iv) evergreen grazed oak forests.

"Karaburun" is a Protected Landscape (IUCN Category V) with a total area of 200 km^2 and also is declared an Important Bird Area. Some of the important habitats are: (i) rocky coast with

mediterranean vegetation of endemic species of *Limonium* spp.; (ii) coastal rocks and rocky or peeble beaches; (iii) alpine and sub-alpine meadows on limestone; and (iv) Mixed oak forests with *Quercus cerris, Q. frainetto* and *Q. petraea*.

"Porto-Palermo-Llamani beach" is a proposed Protected Landscape (IUCN Category V) not yet approved with a total area of 20.68 km^2. Some of the important habitats in the area are: (i) termo-mediterranean shrub vegetation; (ii) Formation with *Euphorbia dendroides*; (iii) Forests dominated by *Quercus ithaburensis macrolepis*; (iv) Rocky coast vegetation; (v) meadows with *Posidonia oceanica*; and (vi) Coraligenous formations.

The Vlora county still struggles to have an integrated system of management of waste due to the relatively large amount of waste generated and the non-optimal system of waste recycling and collection. A landfill has been constructed in Bajkaj (Sarandë) and another one is starting to be constructed in Sherishtë.

The bathing water quality is different dependent on the area of measurement. Usually the beaches near the city of Vlora and Saranda has lower quality while the beaches along the coast are of very good quality. The issues of drinking water supply and waste water treatment has not been completely solved.

III.6.3 Italy

The area on the Puglia Region under study has a high naturalistic value, with the consequent presence of different environmental constraints. The following main types of **coastal habitats** are identified:

- Biocenosis of well calibrated fine sands, characterized by typical soft bottom species and subject to strong hydrodynamism;
- Biocenosis of infralittoral photophilic algae, which develops on the rocky substrates of the sublitoral (area below the tidal level), well-lit and subject to poor hydrodynamism. The vegetable component is characterized by typically photophilic algae, small, with short life cycles and rapid reproduction, such as the green algae *Acetabularia acetabulum, Halimeda tuna, Dasycladus vermicularis,* and by the brown alga *Padina pavonica*. This biocenosis is particularly rich in algal populations that favor the presence of a rich benthic fauna that settles mainly in the cavities and in the tunnels formed by the algae;
- *Posidonia oceanica*, a species protected by the "Habitat Directive" (92/43 EEC), incorporated into Italian law by Presidential Decree 8.9.1997 n. 357. Endemic marine Phanerogam of the Mediterranean, where, in sandy sublitoral environments, it forms vast prairies that constitute one of the most productive ecosystems of the Mediterranean (Mazzella et al., 1986; Boudouresque et al., 1984). For *Posidonia oceanica,* in general, the decline, in terms of reduction in density of foliate tufts, of grasslands has been repeatedly related to the significant input of suspended solids, nutrients and organic substance produced by plants (aquaculture, discharges, harbor works, etc.) present in the vicinity of the prairies (Diaz-Almela et al., 2008; Cancemi et al., 2003; Ruiz et al., 2001; Delgado et al., 1999). The deposition of fine suspended solids accelerates the degradation processes of the wooden component of the matte causing a lower compactness of the same and, therefore, a vulnerability of the foliari tufts to physical removal, such as that represented by the wave motion and/or mechanical disturbance (e.g. anchoring).

Near the *Posidonia oceanica* plants an abundant presence of *Caulerpa prolifera* has been found which in some areas has formed "meadows". The *Caulerpa prolifera* is a green alga that lives on sandy bottoms from 1 to 15-20 m often near the *P.oceanica* with which it competes for space. The distribution of the populations found in the area investigated, outside the basin used as a dock, has two

types 1: more or less extensive single patches or a mosaic in which different populations belonging to the above-mentioned categories alternate. (Sánchez-Lizaso J. et al, 2009).

Natural disasters are more and more frequent, such as the natural phenomena connected to the so-called "mucilage", at roughly three-year intervals, whose manifestation determines situations of increasing concern along the coasts of Puglia. These algal blooms lead to complex situations in terms of both the fisherman's loss of earnings (due to lack of catch that moves away from the fishing area), and in terms of damage to the fishing gear that is often even abandoned at sea (as it is too heavy to be hauled in), both in terms of environmental impact on the seabed (resulting in the abandonment of nylon nets on the bottom and subsequent priming of the so-called "ghost fishing").[4]

One of the largest Special Protection Areas of Natura 2000 Network is the area called Alta Murgia belonging to the Puglia Region, covering 1,258 square kilometres.

Table 4 – Areas included in the Special Protection Areas (SPA), in Sites of Community Importance and Special Areas of Conservation (SCI and SAC) and in the Natura 2000 Network in Puglia. Year 2017, area in square kilometres (ISTAT, Italian Statistic Yearbook, 2018).

SPA			SCI			Natura 2000		
Nu.	Land	Sea	Nu.	Land	Sea	Nu.	Land	Sea
	%	%		%	%		%	%
12	13,4	0,6	80	20,1	5,2	87	20,6	5,2

A list of the main Protected Areas of Puglia Region is given in Table 5:

Table 5 – List of main Protected Areas in Puglia Region.

Protected Area	**Classification**	**PA Official List**	**International classification**	**Establishment legal instrument**	**Regions, Provinces**	**Municipalities**	**Surface Area (ha)**	**Park Authority**
Isole Tremiti	National Park	EUAP0168	IUCN II	DPR 5.6.1995	Puglia, Foggia	Isole Tremiti (18 municipalities)	121.118	Gargano National Park Authority
Alta Murgia	National Park	EUAP0852	IUCN II	DPR 10.3.2004	Puglia; Bari, Barletta-Andria-Trani	Altamura, Andria, Bitonto, Cassano delle Murge, Corato, Gravina in Puglia, Grumo Appula, Minervino Murge, Poggiorsini, Ruvo di Puglia, Santeramo in Colle, Spinazzola, Toritto	68.077	Alta Murgia National Park Authority

[4] Source: Bollettino Ufficiale della Regione Puglia - n. 68 del 17-5-2018. Determinazione del dirigente Servizio VIA e VINCA 9 maggio 2018, n. 83 - Piano di gestione ai fini della conservazione del corallo rosso. Comuni di Otranto, Castro, Corsano, Castrignano del Capo. POR Puglia FESR-FSE 2014/2020 – Asse VI – "Tutela dell'ambiente e Promozione delle Risorse Naturali e Culturali" Azione 6.5 – 6.5.1 "interventi per la Tutela e Valorizzazione della Biodiversità Terrestre e Marina" dal titolo "Piano di Gestione ai fini della conservazione del corallo rosso pugliese". Proponente: Dipartimento di Biologia dell'Università degli Studi di Bari "Aldo Moro". Valutazione di incidenza (screening). ID_5365.

Protected Area	Classification	PA Official List	International classification	Establishment legal instrument	Regions, Provinces	Municipalities	Surface Area (ha)	Park Authority
Gargano	National Park	EUAP0005	IUCN II	L. n. 394 6.12.1991 DM 4.12.1992, 4.11.1993, and 17.11.1994 DPR 5.6.1995 DPR 18.5.2001	Puglia, Foggia	Apricena, Cagnano Varano, Carpino, Ischitella, Isole Tremiti, Lesina, Manfredonia, Mattinata, Monte Sant'Angelo, Peschici, Rignano Garganico, Rodi Garganico, San Giovanni Rotondo, San Marco in Lamis, San Nicandro Garganico, Serracapriola, Vico del Gargano, Vieste	121.118	National Park Authority
Torre Guaceto	Regional Park	EUAP1075	IUCN II	DM 4.2.2000	Puglia, Brindisi	Brindisi, Carovigno	1.016	Torre Guaceto Management Consortium
Bosco Incoronato	Regional Park	EUAP1188	IUCN IV: habitat/species conservation area	R.L. n. 10 15.05.2006	Puglia, Foggia	Foggia	1.060	Municipality of Foggia
Costa Otranto-S.Maria di Leuca e Bosco di Tricase	Regional Park	EUAP1192	IUCN V: protected land/sea landscape	R.L. n. 30 26.10.2006	Puglia, Lecce	Alessano, Andrano, Castrignano del Capo, Castro, Corsano, Diso, Gagliano del Capo, Ortelle, Otranto, Santa Cesarea Terme, Tiggiano, Tricase	3.227	Management Consortium of the Regional Park Costa Otranto-S.Maria di Leuca e Bosco di Tricase
Dune Costiere da Torre Canne a Torre San Leonardo	Regional Park	EUAP1193	IUCN IV: habitat/species conservation area	DGR 23.12.2002 R.L. n. 31 27.10.2006	Puglia, Brindisi	Fasano, Ostuni	1.069	Management Consortium of the Regional Park Dune Costiere da Torre Canne a Torre San Leonardo

Protected Area	Classification	PA Official List	International classification	Establishment legal instrument	Regions, Provinces	Municipalities	Surface Area (ha)	Park Authority
Fiume Ofanto	Regional Park	EUAP1195	IUCN IV: habitat/species conservation area	R.L. n. 37 14.12.2007 and R.L. n. 7 16.03.2009	Puglia; Foggia, Barletta-Andria-Trani	Ascoli Satriano, Barletta, Candela, Canosa di Puglia, Cerignola, Margherita di Savoia, Minervino Murge, Rocchetta Sant'Antonio, San Ferdinando di Puglia, Spinazzola, Trinitapoli	24.883	Province of Barletta-Andria-Trani
Lama Balice	Regional Park	EUAP0225	IUCN IV: habitat/species conservation area	D.Lgs. n. 352 14.07.1992 R.L. n. 15 5.06.2007	Puglia, Bari	Bari, Bitonto	495,2	Lama Balice Regional Park Authority
Litorale di Punta Pizzo e Isola di Sant'Andrea	Regional Park	EUAP1191	IUCN V: protected land/sea landscape	R.L. n. 20 10.07.2006	Puglia, Lecce	Gallpoli	685	Litorale di Punta Pizzo e Isola di Sant'Andrea Park Authority
Litorale di Ugento	Regional Park	EUAP1194	IUCN V: protected land/sea landscape	R.L. n.13 28.05.2007	Puglia, Lecce	Ugento	1.635	Province of Lecce
Palude e Bosco di Rauccio-Sorgenti Idume	Regional Park	EUAP0683	IUCN V: protected land/sea landscape	R.L. n. 25 23.12.2002	Puglia, Lecce	Lecce	1.593	Municipality of Lecce
Porto Selvaggio e Palude del Capitano	Regional Park	EUAP1167	IUCN V: protected land/sea landscape	R.L. n. 19 24.7.1997 R.L. n. 6 15.03.2006	Puglia, Lecce	Nardò	1.120	Municipality of Nardò
Salina di Punta della Contessa	Regional Park	EUAP0580	IUCN V: protected land/sea landscape	R.L. n. 19 24.7.1997 'Rules for the establishment and management of protected natural areas in the Puglia Region' R.L. n. 28 23.12.2002	Puglia, Brindisi	Brindisi	1.697	Province of Brindisi

Protected Area	Classification	PA Official List	International classification	Establishment legal instrument	Regions, Provinces	Municipalities	Surface Area (ha)	Park Authority
Terra delle Gravine	Regional Park	EUAP0894	IUCN IV: habitat/species conservation area	R.L. n. 18 20.12.2005	Puglia, Brindisi and Taranto	Villa Castelli, Palagianello, Castellaneta, Grottaglie, Massafra, Martina Franca, Mottola, Crispiano, Ginosa, Laterza, Montemesola, Palagiano, San Marzano di San Giuseppe, Statte	28.016	The concerned Municipalities
Isole Tremiti	National Marine Protected Area	EUAP0168	IUCN II: Marine Protected Area	DI 14.7.1989	Puglia, Foggia	Isole Tremiti	1.466	Gargano National Park Authority
Porto Cesareo	National Marine Protected Area	EUAP0950	IUCN II: Marine Protected Area	D.M. 12.12.1997	Puglia, Lecce	Nardò, Porto Cesareo	16.654	Consorzio di Gestione Area Marina Protetta Porto Cesareo
Torre Guaceto	National Marine Protected Area	EUAP0169	IUCN II: Marine Protected Area	DIM 4.12.1991	Puglia, Brindisi	Brindisi, Carovigno	2.227	Consorzio di Gestione Torre Guaceto

"**Isole Tremiti**" is a National Park (IUCN Category II) with a total area of 121,118 ha. Some of the important habitats are: (i) Thermo-Mediterranean and pre-steppe bushes, characterized by shrubs of the thermo-Mediterranean thermotype areas (*Euphorbia dendroides*, more or less connected with *Erica arborea*, Mirto, *Calicotome spinosa*, Lentisco); (ii) Woods of *Castanea sativa*, chestnut-dominated woodland formations that basically derive from re-naturalized production (iii) mobile dunes with the presence of *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes); (iv) Faggete of the Apennines of Taxus and Ilex; (v) Tunnel forests of *Salix alba* and *Populus alba*; (vi) Forests of *Quercus ilex*; (vii) Dune forests of *Pinus pinea*, *Pinus pinaster*; (viii) *Pinus halepensis*; (ix) Coastal lagoons, wetlands located along the coastal strip characterized by shallow, salty or brackish waters, characterized by considerable seasonal variations in salinity and in depth, in relation to water supplies (sea or continental waters); and (x) Mediterranean flooded pastures (*Juncetalia maritimi*), is one of those coastal habitats that are so important for the conservation of wetlands and for the stabilization and protection of inland areas from the erosion and advancement of marine waters.

"**Alta Murgia**" is a National Park (IUCN Category II) with a total area of 68,077 ha. Some of the important habitats are: (i) swallow holes, representing the surface karstic phenomena; and (ii) sub-steppe areas, with *Festuco-brometalia* herbaceous vegetation. The largest Italian population of the priority species Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) lives here: it is one of the largest populations of the European Union.

"**Gargano**" is a National Park (IUCN Category II) with a total area of 121,118 ha. The Park preserves an extraordinary concentration of different habitats: rocky coasts, the big and hot southern valleys rich in rare flower and wildlife species, the central beech woodlands situated at low altitudes (300 m asl) and rich in centuries-old specimens, Mediterranean pine forests with Aleppo pines, with specimens more than 500 years old. Gargano is the richest location in orchids in Europe and in the Mediterranean basin, with 56 species and 5 sub-species. Moreover, in the past the promontory played an important role in the connection with the Balkan flora and fauna, as it is demonstrated by the presence of the so-called "trans-Adriatic" species. Presence of important wetlands declared biotopes of Community

Importance, like the lagoons in Lesina and Varano, the marshes in Frattarolo and Daunia Risi, the mouth of the river Fortore, the lake area of Sant'Egidio, and the marsh of Sfinale.

"**Torre Guaceto**" is a State Nature Reserve (IUCN Category II) with a total area of 1,016.00 ha. Some of the important habitats are: (i) Mediterranean maquis, an ecosystem mainly consisting of shrubby plants and small-size trees; (ii) Wetlands, characterized by brackish water; and (iii) Agricultural System.

"**Bosco Incoronato**" is a Regional Park (IUCN Category IV) with a total area of 1,060.00 ha. Some of the important habitats are: (i) the Downy Oak forest, in many cases centuries-old oaks; and (ii) watercourse, represented by the Stream Cervaro, from Dauni Mountains, with a course of about 80 km;(iii) pastures; (iv) forests; and (v) agricultural ecosystems. It includes also part of the proposed Site of Community Importance (pSCI) called "Valle del Cervaro - Bosco dell'Incoronata" lying within the perimeter of the Municipality of Foggia.

"**Costa Otranto-S.Maria di Leuca e Bosco di Tricase**" is a Regional Park (IUCN Category V) with a total area of 3,227.00 ha. Some of the important habitats are: (i) Limestone slopes of southern Italy and Mediterranean Greece; (ii) Cliffs with vegetation of the Mediterranean coasts (with *Limonio spp*., endemic); (Iii) Holm oak woods; (iv) Woods of Vallonea (*Quercus macrolepis*); (V) Submerged or semi-submerged sea caves; and (vi) sub-steppe grasslands of graminee and annual plants, priority habitat that occupies large surfaces, with an environment that often coincides with the areas of the old pastures still today crossed by shepherds and flocks, especially in the Otranto side. The Park includes some Sites of Community Importance in accordance with the Habitats directive 92/43/EC: Costa Otranto – Santa Maria di Leuca (IT9150002), Boschetto di Tricase (IT9150005) and Parco delle querce di Castro (IT9150019).

"**Dune Costiere da Torre Canne a Torre San Leonardo**" is a Regional Park (IUCN Category IV) with a total area of 1.069,00 ha, along a 8-km-long coast, and it includes the inland agricultural areas occupied by centuries-old olive trees and ancient "masserie" (typical farms), characterizing one of the most ancient agricultural landscapes in the Mediterranean. Some of the important habitats are: (i) Neptune grass area or *Posidonia Oceanica*; (ii) Beach landscape; (iii) European Marram grassland; (iv) Juniper dunes; (v) Ponds behind the dunes; (vi) Mediterranean salt steppes; (vii) Fossil dunes and the pseudo-steppe. It includes the Site of Community Importance (SCI) Litorale brindisino (IT9140002), characterized by coastal wetlands, where rare or endangered migratory bird species stop or reproduce.

"**Fiume Ofanto**" is a Regional Park (IUCN Category IV) with a total area of 24,883.00 ha. In the upper reaches of the river the vegetation is composed of woods where there are oaks, ash trees, poplars and willows. In the lower section, thanks to the human hand, the wooded areas have been lost and vegetation is strictly riparian; poplars, willows and elms are present, as well as thick reeds and typically marshy vegetation. Near the mouth, thanks to the high salinity and stagnation of the waters, Mediterranean salt steppes have settled and are considered to be of high conservative priority.

"**Lama Balice**" is an 'urban' (for its proximity to the city centers of Bari and Bitonto) Regional Park (IUCN Category IV) with a total area of 495.00 ha, that cross the area of Murgia in the municipalities of Bitonto, Modugno and Bari and reach the sea. It is in continuity with the Alta Murgia National Park, of which it shares part of the naturalistic-vegetational peculiarities and to which it is linked, since 2012, by a Memorandum of Understanding. characterized by a Mediterranean, thermophilic and xerophilic vegetation. The microhabitat and the natural vegetation combined to the presence of agro-ecosystems offer a stabile environmental worthiness.

"**Litorale di Punta Pizzo e Isola di Sant'Andrea**" is a Regional Park (IUCN Category V) with a total area of 685.00 ha. The island of S. Andrea stands on a flat limestone surface at an average height of about 2 m above sea level. Its rocky coasts present "priority habitats" in the form of salty saltwort steppes and the endemic Statice japigica (*Limonium japigicum*). The Punta Pizzo coastline includes

peculiar environments, which harmonize in an interesting environmental mosaic composed of Mediterranean maquis, pseudo-Mediterranean steppes, damp and marshy environments.

"**Litorale di Ugento**" is a Regional Park (IUCN Category V) with a total area of 1,635.05 ha. From the sea to the land, there are strip of sandy and rocky coasts, humid back-dune environments, marshes and wooded areas, Mediterranean scrub, centuries-old olive groves and the "gavinelle", karst gullies dug into the rock by 'water.

"**Palude e Bosco di Rauccio-Sorgenti Idume**" is a Regional Park (IUCN Category V) with a total area of 1,593.00 ha. Some of the important habitats are: (i) The holm oak; (ii) Vast marshy expanses of "halophile" vegetation (typical of highly salty environments); (iii) Mediterranean Savory Steppes.

"**Porto Selvaggio e Palude del Capitano**" is a Regional Park (IUCN Category V) with a total area of 1,120.00 ha. Some of the important habitats are: (i) Forests; (ii) Pseudo-steppe paths, the habitats rich with grasses and annual plants; and (iii) Jagged cliff.

"**Salina di Punta della Contessa**" is a Regional Park (IUCN V) with a total area of 1,697 ha. Some of the important habitats are: (i) Lagoons; (ii) Posidonia beds; (iii) Mediterranean flooded pastures; (Iv) Embryonic mobile dunes; (v) Mobile dunes with the presence of *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes); and (vi) Savory Steppe. This area plays an international key role in the conservation of migratory birds crossing the eastern Adriatic Sea. It includes the Site of Community Importance "Stagni e saline di Punta della Contessa" (IT9140003).

"**Terra delle Gravine**" is a Regional Park (IUCN Category IV) with a total area of 19,775.00 ha. The Park is characterized by gorges of karst origin, formed by water erosion of streams that gush out from the Murge plateau and flow into the sea.

"**Porto Cesareo**" is a Marine Protected Area (IUCN Category II) with a surface area of 2,227.00 ha. Some of the important habitats are: (i) meadows of *Posidonia oceanica*; (ii) coralligenous formations; and (iii) underwater caves.

"**Torre Guaceto**" is a Marine Protected Area (IUCN Category II) with a surface area of 2,227.00 ha. Some of the important habitats are: (i) meadows of *Posidonia oceanica*; (ii) coralligenous formations; (iii) Rocky Seabed; (iv) Sandy Seabed; and (v) Coastal Dunes.

"**Isole Tremiti**" is a Marine Protected Area (IUCN Category II) with a surface area of 1,466.00 ha. A surprising mosaic of bioconstructors, phanerogams and macroalgae that alternate with incoherent and sandy habitats, with the presence of 38 SPAMI species. Some of the important habitats are: (i) meadows of *Posidonia oceanica*; (ii) coralligenous formations; (iii) *Cymodocea nodosa*; and (iv) Biocenosis of muddy detrital muds.

Finally, the following additional protected areas should be mentioned.

16 National Nature Reserves, which consist of land, river, lake or sea areas that contain one or more naturalistically relevant species of fauna and flora, or present one or more ecosystems important for biological diversity or for the conservation of genetic resources: 1. Torre Guaceto, 2. Falascone, 3. Foresta Umbra, 4. Il Monte, 5. Ischitella e Carpino, 6. Isola di Varano, 7. Lago di Lesina, 8. Masseria Combattenti, 9. Monte Barone, 10. Murge Orientali, 11. Oasi WWF Le Cesine, 12. Palude di Frattarolo, 13. Saline di Margherita di Savoia, 14. San Cataldo, 15. Sfilzi, 16. Stornara.

7 Regional Nature Reserves: 1. Bosco delle Pianelle, 2. Bosco di Cerano, 3. Bosco di Santa Teresa e dei Lucci, 4. Laghi di Conversano e Gravina di Monsignore, 5. Litorale Tarantino Orientale (Foce del Chidro, Vecchia Salina e dune di Torre Colimena, palude del Conte e duna costiera, boschi Cuturi e Rosamarina), 6. Palude del Conte e Duna Costiera, 7. Palude La Vela.

95 Sites of Community Interest (S.C.I.) of Natura 2000 Network

3 Other Protected Areas: 1. Oasi Gravina di Laterza, 2. Oasi Lago Salso Manfredonia, 3. Oasi WWF Monte Sant'Elia.[5]

Important Birds Area (IBA), based on internationally defined criteria, is an area considered an important habitat for the conservation of bird populations. In particular, it is to be mentioned the Important Birds Cesine Area - Code IBA146 and IBA146M.

The **bathing water quality** is different dependent on the area of measurement. Usually the beaches near the cities (e.g. Bari and Brindisi) has lower quality, while the beaches along the coast are of very good quality.

For the **supply of drinking water**, the lowest values of the indicator are observed in Puglia, with 155 liters per inhabitant per day.

For the first time, in 2015-2016 has been done the survey "**Anthropogenic pressure and natural risks. Quarrying and mining activities"**, in order to build a complete and updated cognitive framework of the extraction phenomenon of non-renewable mineral resources in the national territory. Due to its geological characteristics, Italy has numerous mining sites of first-class minerals (mines) and second-class minerals (quarries), the latter being widely distributed in all regions. The quarries are more numerous than the mines. A significant concentration of quarries is found in Puglia (8.2 %), with mined quarried quantities of just under 18.7 million tons. The aggregate "limestone, travertine, chalk and sandstone" is present above all in Puglia (17.8 million tons).

The collection of **urban waste** in Puglia, updated to 2016, amounts to 1.257.881 tonnes, in particular: undifferentiated collection 1.257.881 tonnes, separate collection (organic waste, paper, glass, plastic) 656.438 tonnes, with a 34,3% of differentiated on the total.

Table 6 – Gross electricity production by energy source used in Puglia. Year 2016, absolute values in millions of kWh. (ISTAT, Italian Statistic Yearbook, 2018).

Energy source					Tot Region	% of National	From renewable source	% of National
Hydropower	Wind	Photovoltaic	Traditional Thermal	Geothermal				
3.8	4,794.0	3,464.6	27,015.9	--	35,278.3	12.4	10,141.3	9.3

III.7 Flora

The area under the present study has a large biodiversity value both on the coastal part and on the marine part.

III.7.1 Albania

Due to the different habitats present in the area, we can find alpine and sub-alpine meadows, pine forests (*Pinus nigra* and *P. leucodermis*), fir forests (*Abies borisii-regis*), oak (*Quercus coccifera*), Mediterranean maquis, cliff related vegetation etc. Some other biodiversity important species include *Taxus bacata, Ceratonia siliqua, Quercus macrolepis* etc. Some other important species include *Quercus ithaburensis macrolepis, Euphorbia dendroides, Juncus maritimus, Salvia officinalis, Taxus bacata, Quercus ilex.* As for aquatic plants we can mention *Posidonia oceanica, Cymodocea nodosa, Halophila stipulacea, Lithophyllum byssoides* etc.

[5] See: http://www.parks.it/regione.puglia/Eindex.php

III.7.2 Italy

The spontaneous vegetation in the territory of Puglia, once rich in woods, today appears in the form of woods, scrub and «ganga» (rocky pasture). The arboreal species present in the region are represented by the Aleppo Pine present above all in the Gargano coast and in the area of the Gulf of Taranto; from the Leccio characteristic of the Salento area; while the higher areas of the Murgia see the presence of oaks as the beech, oak 'roverella', carpinella, maple. Characterizing the territory is the presence of the Mediterranean maquis, a spontaneous vegetation constituted by the prevalence of shrubs capable of resisting summer drought such as: mastic, broom, maritime cistus, thorny oak, strawberry tree, myrtle, *Phoenician juniper*, carob, caper, fig, hawthorn, thorny thorn, bramble, etc. As for aquatic plants, specular to the Albanian coast we can mention *Posidonia oceanica, Cymodocea nodosa, Halophila stipulacea, Lithophyllum byssoides* etc.

In the Salento area it is estimated that the flora number about 1,500 species. One of the peculiarities of the Salento flora is that it includes numerous species with Mediterranean-eastern range, absent in the rest of the peninsula.

In addition to the ancient olive groves and vineyards that characterize the area, the vegetation is also made up mainly of the prickly pear, which grows spontaneously both inside and along the coast, from the fig tree and the almond tree. Among the species shared with the Balkan countries, the vallonea oak (*Quercus ithaburensis subsp. Macrolepis*), the spiny oak (*Quercus coccifera*), the Greek kummel (*Carum multiflorum*), the little diffused Apulian heather (*Erica manipuliflora*). On the rocky coast between Otranto and Leuca, the endemic species of rock flora, such as the cornflower of Capo di Leuca (*Centaurea leucadea*), the alyss of Leuca (*Aurina leucadea*), the Salento carnation (*Dianthus japigycus*), the Apulian campanula (*Campanula versicolor*), the thorny thistle-bullet (*Echinops spinosissimus*) and the Salento limonio (*Limonium japigycum*), while on the dunes grow spots of juniper coccolone (*Juniperus oxycedrus*). Also noteworthy is the presence of many species of wild orchids, such as *Anacamptis laxiflora*, *Anacamptis palustris*, *Ophrys apifera*, *Ophrys candica* and *Serapias politisii* which grow in marshy areas, in pastures or in the Mediterranean scrub.

III.8 Fauna

III.8.1 Albania

The coastal and marine area in the Vlora county is very important for the Albanian fauna. Around 75% of the endangered species of marine animals included in the Albanian red book have been found also in the Karaburun-Sazan area (36 species are also of international interest).

The marine area along the coastline is known as an important corridor for the migration of sea turtles from the Ionian island in Greece up to the Patok lagoon in the Adriatic part further north. There is a strong presence of dolphins and elasmobranchs in the sharks and also it is though that the area in the external part of Cape of Karaburun is also suitable for the monk seal.

Some of the most important aquatic species are *Pinna nobilis, Lithophaga lithophaga, Caretta caretta, Epinephelus spp., Thunnus thynnus, Hexanchus griseus, Monachus monachus, Delphinus delphi, Tursiops truncatus* etc.

As for the coastal part some of the fauna species important to mention are *Rana balcanica, Testude hermanni, Natrix natrix, Elaphe quatrolineata, Alectoris graeca, Egretta garzetta, Larus ridibundus, Phalacrocorax pygmeus, Lepus europaeus* etc.

III.8.2 Italy

The fauna in the Apulian regional territory is diversified according to three large areas: the Gargano, which until twenty years ago saw the presence of the wolf coming from the nearby Abruzzo and the roe deer, by now appeared. Even the wild boar is now reduced to a few heads. Still exist: the badger,

the fox, some specimen of porcupine, the mole, the weasel and the squirrel. In the area of the Murgia and of the Salento the fauna of the mammals is reduced, above all, to the rodents, among which the vole and the rural mouse. As for the birds, the plains are populated with larks and calanders. The little broiler is nesting in the Tavoliere.

As far as the fauna of the Salento is concerned, we can count many species of birds such as the crane, the gray heron (*Ardea cinerea*), the mallard (Anas platyrhynchos), the bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), the jay (*Coracias garrulus*), the Turkish fistione (*Netta rufina*), the kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), as well as numerous species of reptiles, such as lizards and geckos, of mammals, such as hedgehogs, foxes and stone martens, and of arthropods, such as scorpions, tarants and moths such as *Amata phegea*.

III.9 Institutional and legal set-up

The following table shows, in a schematic form, the comparative regulatory framework on integrated coastal zone management in Italy, Albania and the European Union.

The Table shows whether the Country has adhered to the ICZM Protocol of the Barcelona Convention and what is the legal status (ratified, ratified but not in force, signed, not signed). For each Country the preparation and implementation of the Maritime Space Planning (MSP) is reported, where present. The other aspect taken into consideration is the presence or absence of a National Strategy for ICZM in the two Countries, considering both the regulatory instruments in force or being developed, and the pilot projects in which the States participate or have participated. It has to be recalled that the Common Regional Framework for ICZM in the Mediterranean and the Conceptual Framework for MSP are being developed by UNEP UNEP/MAP-PAP/RAC and National Focal Points.

Table 7 – Comparative regulatory framework on ICZM/MSP.

Country	EU Member State	Regional Sea Convention (RSC)	ICZM and MSP Legal instruments	Status signature/ratification ICZM and/or MSP legal instrument	Competent Authority/NFP	ICZM National legislation	MSP National legislation	MSP competent authority	ICZM/MSP projects and initiatives (See Annex 1)
Albania	No	Barcelona RSC	ICZM Protocol	ICZM Protocol Ratified 04.05.2010/ Adhesion, Entered into force 24.03.11	Ministry of Tourism and Environment.	National ICZM Plan approved in 2004. Integrated Coastal Zone Inter-Sectoral Plan (PINS-Bregdeti) approved	No	N/A	CAMP Albania SHAPE Plan Coast (2006-2008) GEF Adriatic
Italy	Yes	Barcelona RSC	ICZM Protocol	ICZM Protocol Signed 21.01.2008	Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea-DGPNM	NO Law and Guidelines adopted at sub-national level (Regions)	Legislative Decree n. 201 of 17.09.2016 implementing Directive 2014/89/EU First MSP elaboration at regional level	Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport	• CAMP Italy (2014-2017) **MSP**: • AdriPlan (2013-2015) • IPA Adriatic • SHAPE Plan Coast (2006-2008) • SIMWESTMED and SUPREME EU Projects (2016-2018)
European Union		Barcelona OSPAR HELCOM	ICZM Protocol Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap (2013-2020) HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan	ICZM Protocol Ratified 29.09.10/ Approval, Entered into force 24.03.11	European Commission - Directorate General for Environment	ICZM Recommendation (2002/413/EC) Habitat and Birds Directives (92/43/EEC) Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) Marine Strategy Directive (2008/56/EC) Floods Directive (2007/60)	EU Integrated Maritime Policy (2007) Maritime spatial planning Framework Directive (2014/89/EU)	European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	OURCOAST (2009-2011) Plan Bothnia (2010-2012) BaltSeaPlan (2009-2012) TPEA (2012 -2014) ADRIPLAN (2013-15) Baltic SCOPE (2015-17)

III.9.1 Albania

The Vlora County is one of the 12 counties of Albania. Vlora county is divided into seven municipalities (Delvinë, Finiq, Himarë, Konispol, Sarandë, Selenicë and Vlorë). The municipalities are further subdivided into 200 towns and villages in total with a total area of 2706 km^2. Vlora county is the 7th largest county in Albania. As of January 2019, it has a population of 189.311 inhabitants with a very slight increase compared to the previous year.

In the overall as a county there is the Institution of the Prefect as a central authority and also the Institution of the County Council as a Regional authority. The municipality is the first level of local governance while the County (*qark)* is the second level.

The Prefect functions are stated in the Law No. 107/2016 and include:

- verification of the legality of decisions, orders and orders of a normative nature of the organs of local self-government;
- the coordination of activities between the territorial branches operating in the district as well as those branches with the bodies of the units of local self-government;
- periodic reporting to the Council of Ministers on the activity of the territorial branches operating in the region, according to the order of the Prime Minister, and, for special problems, according to the order of the minister;
- quarterly information of central institutions on the activity of their subordinate structures at the regional level;
- promotion and development of relations and activities with counterpart institutions under the respective agreements;
- Direction of structures for prevention, management and rehabilitation of consequences in cases of civil emergencies;
- running the task forces, creating temporary bodies, committees, working groups and committees on certain issues;
- running or participating in official state ceremonies that take place at the regional level, in accordance with the legislation in force.
- Strengthening institutional capacities for the implementation of state budget programs;
- monitoring and monitoring the implementation at regional level of sectoral policies of the Council of Ministers in agriculture, education, health, environment, public order, fire service, social assistance and support, tourism and culture;
- coordination of its activity with the agencies and inspectorates operating at the qark level, as well as monitoring their activity. For the disagreements that may arise with the heads of these institutions, the Prefect addresses the responsible Minister;
- Review each month of the activities of the territorial branches operating in the qark and the coordination of work between them and the local self-government bodies, in implementation of the program of the Council of Ministers;
- Co-ordination of work with the Central Election Commission and other local electoral structures, in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Code;
- Exercising the responsibilities and other duties entrusted to him by legal or sub-legal acts.

The prefect can have several sub-prefects operating in the smaller municipalities part of the Vlora County.

The County Council of Vlora is a local authority and its functions are stated in Law No. 139/2015 as follows:

- The functions of the county are the construction and implementation of regional policies, their alignment with state policies at the regional level, and any other function provided by law.
- The county exercises all functions delegated by one or more municipalities within the territory of the region, according to an agreement between the parties.
- The county carries out and exercises competencies delegated by the central government, in accordance with the principles provided for in Article 22 of this law.

From the central institutions operating at the local level, we can mention as important for this report the following (not ranked based on importance):

i. Regional Development Agency Nr. 4, Vlorë;
ii. Regional State Inspectorate of Environment, Forests and Water, Vlorë;
iii. Vlora Agricultural Department;
iv. Vlora Regional Directory of the National Food Authority;
v. Vlora Regional Environmental Agency;
vi. Vlora Regional Education Directorate;
vii. Vlora Regional Directorate of Cultural Monuments;
viii. Vlora Regional Agency of Protected Areas

As for the local institutions, the most important are the municipalities of Delvinë, Finiq, Himarë, Konispol, Sarandë, Selenicë and Vlorë. As a representative institution is the Municipal Council while as an executive institution is the mayor.

Other regional institutions include the 6 enterprises dealing with the supply and treatment of drinking water and waste water. As important external institutions important for this report we can include the Vlora University "Ismail Qemali" and the Vocational Educational Training Business School in Vlora.

For the management of the marine waters, there are several central institutions involved as shown summarized in the Table 8.

Table 8 – The list of main central institution involved in the institutional set-up of the maritime space in Albania.

No.	Name of Institution	Responsibility
1	Ministry of Defence	Management of national borders, territorial waters and national security issues
2	Interinstitutional Marine Operational Center	Surveillance of Albanian maritime space, to achieve the organization, planning, coordinating, and directing operations at sea
3	National Agency of Water Management	Integrated management of water resources, policy making
4	Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy	Maritime transportation, hydrocarbon exploitation and search, port management
5	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Exploitation of fish resources, aquaculture activities
6	Ministry of Interior	Control of anti-smuggling, anti-traffic activities
7	Ministry of Tourism and Environment	Monitoring and protection of water quality and marine biodiversity
8	Ministry of Health	Monitoring of bathing waters
9	Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth	Scientific Research in the maritime area, education curricula etc.
10	Ministry of Culture	Management of underwater archaeological resources

III.9.2 Italy

Italy is divided into 20 Regions. One of them is **Puglia Region** with an ordinary statute, with 4,048,242 inhabitants (ISTAT, 2019) divided into 6 Provinces: Bari (capital), Foggia, Barletta-Andria-Trani, Taranto, Brindisi and Lecce. The Provinces are further subdivided into 258 towns with a total area of 19,371 km^2.[6] The Municipality is the first level of local governance, while the Province is the second level and the Region the third level.

With regards to the organisational framework of competences of the Puglia Region, are to be mentioned the Regional Law 04.02.1997 n.7 (and subsequent amendments), containing rules on the organization of the Regional Administration, in particular, its regulatory and planning functions.

The **President of the Region** directs the regional policy and coordinates its activity, assisted by the Regional Council, which operates as a collegial body and participates in the determination and implementation of the political-administrative direction of the Region. The **Department of Territorial Planning - Landscape Protection and Development Section** pursues the planning and management policies of the territory, enhancing the characteristics of transversal material, in which the policies followed in other sectors (environment, soil protection, transport, trade, agriculture, etc.). The service coordinates in an integrated manner the relevant sectors, as an essential element for achieving urban and territorial quality.

The **Environment, Land and Industry Strategic Planning Service** (within the Regional Department of Mobility, Urban Quality, Public Works, Ecology and Landscape) is in charge of regional planning dedicated to the cycle of urban and special waste and the clean-up of polluted sites in agreement with the Waste and Remediation Cycle section and the Environmental Authorization section. Defines regional planning in the extractive sector in agreement with the Waste and Remediation Cycle Section. The Service is responsible for regional planning for Regional Environmental Energy and for air quality. It takes care of the periodic updating of the regional territorial landscape plan and of the vast and municipal area planning, also through the monitoring carried out by the Regional Observatory for the quality of the landscape and the involvement of local administrations, bodies and associations, guaranteeing their coordination in the general planning framework. It promotes the quality of urban and territorial transformations, integrating them with the policies of protection and enhancement of the landscape, through the action of directing and coordinating the implementation of the rules on the quality of architectural works and urban transformation, energy efficiency interventions. It plans, in collaboration with the Landscape Protection and Enhancement Section and the Environmental Authorization Section, the interventions necessary for the correct integration of infrastructure policies with particularly "sensitive" territorial contexts.

We should also mention the Regional Law of 12.03.2001, n. 11 (and subsequent amendments) containing rules on the **assessment of environmental impacts**, according to which the Puglia Region is competent to express an opinion on the impact assessment for “territorial, urban planning, sector plans and their variants”. Furthermore, the regional Regulation n. 6/2016 “Regulations on Conservation Measures pursuant to European Directives 2009/147 and 92/43 and Presidential Decree 357/97 for Sites of Community Importance (SCI)” (B.U.R.P. n. 54 of 12/04/2016) as amended and supplemented by Regional Regulation n. 12/2017 (B.U.R.P. n. 55 of 12/05/2017).

In the framework of regional legislative autonomy, we should remember also the very recent measure adopted by the Puglia Region, the **Seaside Ordinance** of 7.03.2019, which prohibits the use of single-use plastic items (such as plastic cutlery, glasses, plates, straws and cotton buds) on the beaches, which sees the ‘Cna Balneatori Puglia’ involved with more than 200 beach operators. Puglia is therefore the first Italian Region to take this provision, two years earlier than the European Union directive that will ban single-use plastic items only from 2021.

[6] http://www.comuni-italiani.it/16/province.html

Below are listed the main Italian Institutions, at national and regional level, competent on ICZM and MSP (not ranked based on importance).

Table 9 – List of the main Italian institutions competent on ICZM-MSP at National (N) and Puglia Region (R) level.

No.	Level	Name of Institution	Responsibility
1		Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	Political, economic, social and cultural relations with foreign countries, protection of the environment on a global level.
2	N	Ministry of Defence	Management of national borders, territorial waters and national security issues.
3	N	Ministry of Infrastructure and transport	National infrastructural networks (road, motorway, railway, port and airport) serving the means of transport and land, sea and air transport; the general plan of transport and logistics, the sectoral plans for transport, including urban mobility plans. MSP National competent Authority.
4	N	Corps of the Capitanerie di Porto - Coast Guard	Supervises and regulates maritime and port activities also dealing with safety of navigation and maritime transport, protection of the marine environment and its ecosystems, inspection activities on merchant ships in transit in national ports, surveillance of sea fishing.
5	N	Ministry of Environment and the protection of the sea and the territory	Protection of biodiversity, ecosystems and marine-coastal heritage, protection of the land and water, policies to combat climate change and global warming, sustainable development, energy efficiency and circular economy, integrated management of the waste cycle, environmental assessment of strategic works, contrast to atmospheric-acoustic-electromagnetic pollution and the risks deriving from chemical products and genetically modified organisms. Implementation of the ICZM Protocol of the Barcelona Convention.
6		Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA)	Support to the Ministry of the Environment, contributes to strengthen the presence of the national environmental protection agencies system within the context of the international cooperation.
7	N	Ministry of Agricultural, food and forestry policies and tourism	Develops and coordinates the agricultural, agri-food, forestry, fishing and tourism policy lines
8	N	Ministry of Interior	General administration and general government representation in the territory; the State Police, the national fire brigade and the prefects depend on it.
9	N	Customs agency and monopolies	Controls on commercial traffic, prevention activities and countering of offenses relating to the illegal trafficking of counterfeit products or products that do not comply with health or safety regulations, weapons, drugs, cultural heritage assets, illicit waste trafficking and international trade in specimens of animal and plant species threatened with extinction protected by the Washington Convention
10	N	Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities	Cultural heritage management, landscape protection, management and protection of underwater archaeological and cultural heritage.
11	N	Ministry of Health	Monitoring of bathing waters.
12	N	Ministry of Education, University and Research	Scientific and technological research, scientific research in the maritime area, curricular planning of educational institutions of the national education and training system.
13	N	Ministry of Labour and Social Policies	Employment development and protection, social policies, with particular reference to the prevention and reduction of the conditions of need and hardship of people and families and promotion and coordination of training policies.

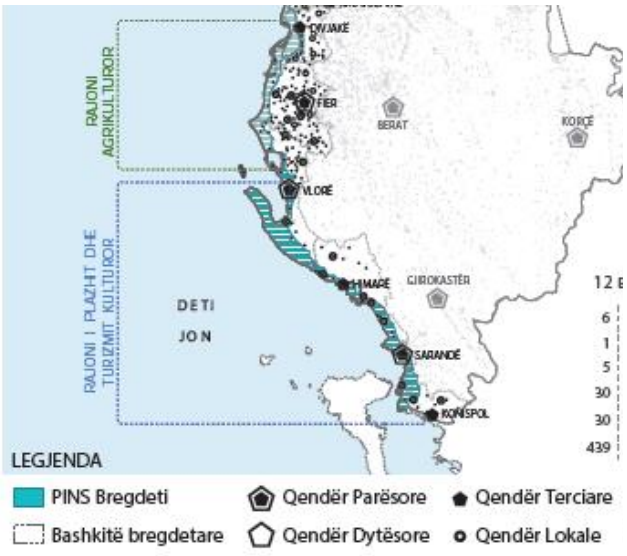
No.	Level	Name of Institution	Responsibility
14	N	Ministry of Economic development	Industrial policy, protection and enhancement of Italian excellence and Made in Italy; Energy policy, in particular security of energy supplies and offshore mining activities, promotion of renewable energy.
15	N	Ministry of Economics and Finance	Direction of the overall economic and financial policy of the State.
16	N	Department for Regional Affairs and autonomies of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers	Relations with the autonomy system to identify ways of efficient performance of services; collaboration facility between State, Regions, Autonomous Provinces and local autonomies.
17	R	Presidente e Giunta Regionale / President and Regional Council	Ensures the connection and coordination of the overall regional activity aimed at achieving the programmatic objectives; handles relations between regional government bodies and institutional bodies of the European Union, the State and other Regions, as well as the Regional Council.
18	R	Coordinamento Politiche Internazionali / Coordination of International Policies	Ensures the unity of the government of Apulia towards foreign countries and participation in international networks and organizations.
19	R	Sezione regionale Protezione Civile / Regional Civil Protection Section	Carries out the activities of civil protection, for the protection of the population, infrastructure and the environment; plans and implements the regional programs for forecasting and preventing natural and anthropic risks, formulates the guidelines for the preparation of the civil protection planning tools of the local authorities.
20	R	Dipartimento Mobilità, Qualità Urbana, Opere Pubbliche, Ecologia e Paesaggio / Department of Mobility, Urban Quality, Public Works, Ecology and Landscape	Governs the structure and territorial infrastructure, the protection and enhancement of the environment and the landscape, urban planning policies, management of the transport system and related infrastructures, the promotion of sustainable mobility, the planning and execution of public works, the management and prevention of risks deriving from industrial activities, the governance of environmental aspects such as the waste cycle.
21	R	Dipartimento Turismo, Economia della Cultura e Valorizzazione del Territorio / Department of Tourism, Economy of Culture and Development of the Territory	Takes care of the enhancement of the regional artistic, historical and architectural heritage; oversees territorial cooperation, tourist development.
22	R	Dipartimento Agricoltura, Sviluppo Rurale e Ambientale / Department of Agriculture, Rural and Environmental Development	Takes care of regional policies concerning agriculture and rural policies, zootechnics, fishing, hunting and aquaculture, management and protection of natural and water resources.

Table 10 – List of the Strategic Agencies of Puglia Region.

Regional Strategic Agencies	
1	Regional Agency for Environmental Protection - A.R.P.A.
2	Regional Agency for Technology and Innovation - A.R.T.I.
3	Regional Strategic Agency for the Sustainable Development of the Territory - A.S.S.E.T.
4	Regional Agency for Irrigation and Forestry Activities - A.R.I.F.
5	Regional agency for tourism *Pugliapromozione*

III.9.3 Spatial planning

III.9.3.1 Albania



On the spatial planning framework, it has been approved the **General National Plan (PPK) "Albania 2030"** is the highest instrument of territorial planning in Albania, which addresses planning issues in an integrated way, viewing the Albanian territory as a whole.

Also important for this report is the **Integrated Coastal Zone Inter-Sectoral Plan (PINS-Bregdeti)** that provides the vision of coastline development. It orients the sectoral developments of national importance in the field of tourism, environment, transport, energy, agriculture, culture, etc., as well as urban developments in the territories administered by the municipalities. The plan also aims to establish a better relationship between business investment requirements with the sustainable development of the territory, protection and preservation of historic assets, cultural heritage, protected natural areas and at the same time prevent investment in areas that pose a risk to life, the nature of the environment. The PINS Bregdeti, within the ICZM, is to provide a vision and development strategy that will ensure prosperity for the near future and the protection and conservation of the coastal zone for future generations where the integrity of coastal ecosystems remains a priority.

On a municipality level, there are in the process of preparation the **General Local Plans (PPV)** that for the Vlora county are in this phase:

Nr.	Name of Municipality	Status of PPV
1	Delvinë	In preparation Process
2	Finiq	In preparation Process
3	Himarë	Approved on 16.10.2017 with Decision No.2 of the National Territorial Council
4	Konispol	Approved on 16.10.2017 with Decision No.4 of the National Territorial Council
5	Sarandë	Approved on 16.10.2017 with Decision No.3 of the National Territorial Council
6	Selenicë	In preparation Process
7	Vlorë	Approved on 16.10.2017 with Decision No.1 of the National Territorial Council

III.9.3.2 Italy

On the spatial planning framework, at national and regional level it is useful to refer to provisions and regulations in the field of planning and land use. First of all, the legislation concerning the EIA, urban planning, river basins, use of water resources, agriculture, tourism. In Italy, the **Code of Cultural Heritage and Landscape** (Legislative Decree No. 42/2004 and subsequent amendments) provides for the adoption by the Regions of **Regional Landscape Plans**, as fundamental acts of territorial planning and landscape protection, the main instrument of protection and discipline of the territory, superordinate to urban planning instruments.

The State and the Regions are entrusted with the task of ensuring that the entire national territory is known, safeguarded and planned. The preparation of the landscape plans is a regional competence, but the Ministry is obliged to participate in the joint processing with the Regions (so-called co-planning) of those parts of the plan that concern bound landscape assets. To date only three Regional Landscape Plans are definitively approved and in force: the landscape plans of the autonomous Region of Sardinia (2006), of the Tuscany Region (2015) and of the Puglia Region (2015).

With regard to the Puglia Region, the following list shows the most important territorial and sectorial planning tools:

- **Regional Document of General Structure** (**DRAG**), established by Regional Law 20/2001, which defines the general lines of regional planning to which all lower level planning tools must coordinate.
- **Territorial Landscape Plan** – TLP or **PPTR** - definitively approved by Regional Council Resolution n. 176 of 16.02.2015 (previously adopted with Resolution No. 1435 of 2.08.2013, BURP n. 108 of 06.08.2013) is a landscape plan pursuant to articles 135 and 143 of the Code of Cultural Heritage and Landscape (Legislative Decree 22.01.2004, No. 42), with specific functions of the territorial plan according to art. 1 of the R.L. 7.10.2009, n. 20 "Rules for landscape planning". It aims to protect and enhance, as well as recover and redevelop the landscapes of Puglia; it pursues, in particular, the promotion and realization of a self-sustainable and lasting socio-economic development and a conscious use of the regional territory, also through conservation and recovery of the aspects and peculiar characteristics of social, cultural and environmental identity, the protection of biodiversity, the creation of new integrated landscape values, coherent and responsive to quality and sustainability criteria.
- **Thematic Territorial Landscape Plan of landscape and environmental assets - Thematic Urban Landscape Plan "Landscape"** – TULP or **PUTT/p** - adopted with Regional Council Resolution n. 1748 of 15.12.2000 (BURP n. 6 of 01.13.2001) regulates the processes of physical transformation and the use of the territory in order to: protect its historical and cultural identity, make the quality of the landscape compatible with its structuring components, and its social use, to promote the preservation and enhancement of territorial resources."
- **Regional Coastal Plan** – RCP or **PRC** - - adopted with Regional Council Resolution n. 2273 dated 13.10.2011 pursuant to Regional Law 23.06.2006, n. 17 "Regulation of the protection and use of the coast" and subsequent modifications - is the instrument that governs the use of the *Demanio Marittimo* areas, with the aim of guaranteeing the correct balance between safeguarding the environmental and landscape aspects of the Apulian coast, and the free use and development of recreational tourism activities. In the more general integrated coastal management model, it pursues the essential objective of the economic and social development of coastal areas through eco-compatibility criteria and respect for natural processes. The PRC is also an instrument of knowledge of the coastal territory and in particular of the geomorphological and meteorological dynamics connected to the priority problem of coastal erosion, whose evolution requires a careful and constant monitoring and coastal recovery and rebalancing interventions. In this context, the Plan defines the so-called Physiographic Units and Sub-Units, intended as homogeneous and unitary coastal-marine areas. The PRC is also a planning tool, in relation to the recent transfer of administrative functions to local authorities (issuance of maritime state-owned concessions), the effective and efficient exercise of which can only be guaranteed by coordinated and coherent action by the Region. In this sense the PRC provides the guidelines and criteria to which the Municipal Plans of the Coasts (PCC) must conform.

- **Provincial Territorial Coordination Plans** (RL 25/2000 and RL 20/2001). The PTCP is an act of general planning that defines the strategic guidelines for regional planning at the supra-municipal level, in the sectors of nature protection, environmental protection, water protection and soil protection and protection of natural beauty. To date only the Province of Lecce has started the procedure for the preparation of its own PTCP.
- **General Regulatory Plans** (GRP or **PRG)** of coastal municipalities: the municipal planning, in which the General Urban Plans are inserted and the planning acts adopted by the single municipalities in compliance with the Thematic Urban Landscape Thematic Plan (PUTT/P).
- Finally, the **planning of the Parks**, with the adoption of the Plan of the Alta Murgia National Park, with D.G.R. n 314 of 22.03.2016.

III.9.4 Maritime Spatial Planning

Regarding the implementation of the EU Directive establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning (**MSP Directive 2014/89/EU**) in the Italian national context, the references are to the Italian Legislative Decree No. 201 of 17.08.2016, implementing the MSP Directive, together with the Guidelines adopted by Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers of 1.12.2017 containing the guidelines and criteria for the preparation of maritime spatial management plans[7].

For the trans-boundary cooperation, the cited Legislative Decree 201/2016 and rule 15 of the Guidelines foresee the usefulness of envisaging from the very beginning the participation of Member and Non-Member but neighbouring States in national planning, through instruments such as programme agreements or technical and/or consultation panels and forums, or similar, also taking advantage of utilising European projects in which Italy participates. (Addis, 2018).

III.10 Area-Based Management Tools (ABMTs)

Examination of legal instruments embodying cross-border cooperation in the area rise attention on the sectoral area-based management tools (ABMTs), from UNCLOS and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, such as fisheries closures areas. Among other legal tool to protect the unique environment of this specific study area, coherently with a sustainable economy of the sea, should be cited as an example of operative tool for the sustainable use of the sea within a planning approach, the proposal of two Fishery Restricted Areas (FRAs).

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), with the aim to ensure the conservation and sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of marine living resources, is entitled to adopt spatial management measures that regulate and/or restrict fishing activities in its area of application, e.g. by establishing total closures or prohibiting the use of some fishing gear. In the GFSM Geographical Subarea (GSA) 18 Southern Adriatic Sea, two areas have been proposed: 'Bari Canyon' (proposed by ISMAR-CNR, IUCN Center for Mediterranean Cooperation, University of Bari, Coispa Bari) and 'Otranto FRA for the protection of deep water essential fish habitats in the South Adriatic' (proposed by MEDReact and AdriaticRecovery Project on 31 March 2018).

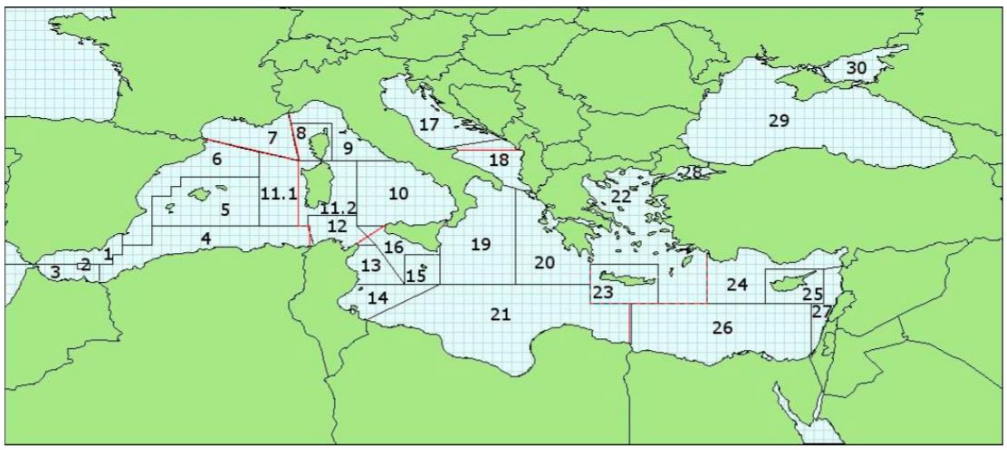
The proposal to establish a restricted fishing zone in the "**Bari Canyon**" is located in the Southern Adriatic (GSA 18), 40 km from the city of Bari and 100 km south of the Italian Gargano National Park. The central area includes the most valuable benthic habitats, such as deep coral communities, which also represent important nursery and spawning areas. The objective of the FRA is to contribute to the sustainability of fishing activities, protecting a depth ecosystem considered vulnerable. The proposed area would therefore allow the recovery of overexploited fish stocks and habitats of

[7] Decreto del Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri 1.12.2017 "Linee Guida contenenti gli indirizzi e i criteri per la predisposizione dei piani di gestione dello spazio marittimo".

particular interest, thanks to the adoption of measures for the management of fishing activities. The area has unique physical and hydrogeological characteristics, due to deep-water circulation processes that influence the entire Mediterranean basin. Furthermore, the area is characterized by numerous benthic communities and represents an essential habitat for important commercial species such as anchovies, sardines, hake, red mullet and pink shrimp.

The area of '**Otranto FRA**' – within the FAO fishing subarea Central-FAO Statistical Division 2.1 Adriatic and 2.2 Ionian- GFSM Geographical Subarea (GSA) 18 Southern Adriatic Sea[8] - has been proposed as a new FRA due to the its unique characteristics, which influence the water circulation and the hydric exchange of the entire Mediterranean. Moreover, it is considered an Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) both for the presence of species of important commercial value (e.g. *Aristeomorpha foliacea, Parapenaeus longirostris, Merluccius merluccius*), and for the presence of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) that could be damaged by fishing activities such as trawling. The core area would cover an important area of nursery and spawning site for species considered vulnerable.

GFCM geographical subareas (GSAs) (GFCM, 2009)



---- *FAO Statistical Divisions (red)* ---- *GFCM Geographical Subareas (black)*

01 – Northern Alboran Sea	07 – Gulf of Lion	13 – Gulf of Hammamet	19 – Western Ionian Sea	25 – Cyprus
02 – Alboran island	08 – Corsica	14 – Gulf of Gabès	20 – Eastern Ionian Sea	26 – Southern Levant Sea
03 – Southern Alboran Sea	09 – Ligurian Sea and northern Tyrrhenian Sea	15 – Malta	21 – Southern Ionian Sea	27 – Eastern Levant Sea
04 – Algeria	10 – Southern and central Tyrrhenian Sea	16 – Southern Sicily	22 – Aegean Sea	28 – Marmara Sea
05 – Balearic Islands	11.1 – Western Sardinia 11.2 – Eastern Sardinia	17 – Northern Adriatic Sea	23 – Crete	29 – Black Sea
06 – Northern Spain	12 – Northern Tunisia	18 – Southern Adriatic Sea	24 – Northern Levant Sea	30 – Azov Sea

Figure 7 – GFCM geographical subareas (GSAs) (GFSM, 2009). Within the Subarea 18 the location of the proposed FRAs on the Mediterranean reference map. Source: Resolution GFCM/33/2009/2[9].

[8] Resolution GFCM/33/2009/2 on the establishment of geographical subareas in the GFCM area of application, amending Resolution GFCM/31/2007/2 Geographical coordinates for GFCM geographical subareas (GSAs) (GFCM, 2009).
GSA 18Coastlines (both sides):
41º 55' N 15º 08' E
40º 04' N 18º 29' E
Croatia-Montenegro border
Albania-Greece border

[9] https://gfcm.sharepoint.com/CoC/Decisions%20Texts/RES-GFCM_33_2009_2-e.pdf?CID=29865369-3a3d-43b7-8494-a968f6a60e65

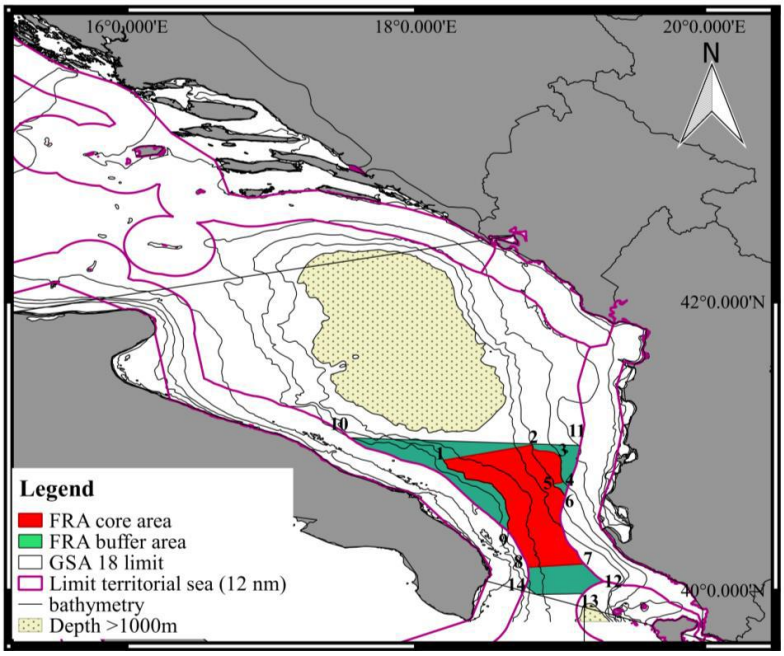


Figure 8 – Location of the proposed Otranto FRA- Detailed position of the proposed FRA in the Adriatic Sea, GSA18. The numbers indicate the corresponding vertex of the core and buffer areas (MEDReact and AdriaticRecovery Project, 2008).

IV. Description of the international context where CAMP could be implemented

The main objective of CAMP projects may concern the development and implementation of strategies and procedures for sustainable development of coastal areas, in particular by identifying and testing ad hoc methodologies and tools for the Management of Integrated Coastal Zones (ICZM), implementing the ICZM Protocol, in particularly significant pilot areas.

As for the concerned proposed CAMP area in the Otranto Channel, the presence of the characteristics of a semi-enclosed sea as defined in Article 122 of the 1982 UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) make the Adriatic a particularly suitable case to meet the provisions contained in Part IX (Article 23) of UNCLOS on cooperation of Coastal States in enclosed or semi-enclosed Seas (Sersic, 1992).

The ICZM Protocol, in Article 28, expressly requires for transboundary cooperation, asking Contracting Parties to endeavour, directly or with the assistance of the Organization or the competent international organizations, bilaterally or multilaterally, to coordinate their national coastal strategies, plans and programmes related to contiguous coastal zones.

Considering the MSP as an operational tool for the implementation of the ICZM in the seaward, the EU legal instrument on MSP (2014/89/EU MSP Directive) provides for effective trans-boundary cooperation and collaboration between Member States as well as neighbouring third Countries, underlining that Member States should consult and coordinate their plans with the relevant ones, enhancing effective cooperation across the marine region concerned (MSP Directive, Article 11). This cooperation shall be pursued through, inter alia, existing regional institutional cooperation structures such as Regional Sea Conventions, like the Barcelona Convention system for the Mediterranean Sea Basin.

Even if MSP is primarily a country-based process, used to spatially analyse and organise human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives, trans-boundary cooperation is essential to ensure that the MSP plans are coherent and coordinated across the coastal

zones and the marine regions, where the political and jurisdictional delineation of boundaries typically does not correspond to the limits of maritime activities or ecosystems. In the spatial planning of marine areas, the trans-boundary cooperation is "an integral part of an ecosystem approach to MSP, as marine and coastal ecosystem dynamics transcend administrative boundaries and steer planning towards wider regional or sea basin considerations" (S. Jay et al., 2016).

In the trans-boundary context, MSP approach should be adaptive, ecosystem-based and should include all relevant stakeholders, meaning it should be practiced within the ecosystem-based boundaries (marine regions), so that a wiser management of all uses and of the ecosystems can be achieved (Douvere, 2008), instead of per sector or per economic activity.

At the regional level, within the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, cross-border cooperation is listed as one of the main steps for MSP implementation outlined in the Conceptual Framework for Marine Spatial Planning in the Mediterranean (CoP 20, Tirana, Albania, December 2017, Decision IG.23/7 Annex II).

Within the proposed CAMP project, even thus MSP is primarily a country-based process within the national competency, the RSCs (such as, for the Mediterranean, the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system) is the natural framework and tool for regional and sub-regional governance and transboundary cooperation. Therefore, the States concerned have the competency for the MSP at national level; UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system has a concurrent and supporting competency to the national, with its seven Protocols that define the sectors and activities on which to focus the object of cross-border cooperation, using the instrument of the MSP to support the planning and management of the marine area as intended and regulated under the ICZM Protocol.

Thus, for the purpose of proposing transboundary activities to be carried out within the CAMP Otranto, the following sectors should be considered:

- prevention and reduction of **pollution from ships**, combating pollution in case of emergency, linked and connected with maritime traffic, and maritime activities in general (including offshore);
- prevention of **pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by trans-boundary movements of hazardous wastes** and their disposal;
- protection of the Mediterranean Sea against **pollution from land-based sources and activities**;
- prevention and elimination of **pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by discharges from boats, airships, or incineration at sea** (**dumping**);
- protection of the sea from **pollution caused by offshore activities**, exploration and exploitation of the continental Shelf, the sea floor and its subsoil;
- protection and improvement of the state of the Mediterranean natural and cultural heritage, through the sustainable management of marine and coastal areas of particular natural and cultural value and threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna, particularly through the **establishment of Specially Protected Areas** in order to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of ecosystems;
- **sustainable development of coastal zones**, sustainable management and use of their natural resources.

V. Project objectives and structure

A first indication of the strategic objectives of the CAMP Otranto are defined according to the above analysis of the interested coastal regions and the results of the formal meeting between the representatives of the two involved Countries and PAP/RAC (Tirana, 21 June 2019).

The activities for the realisation of the CAMP Otranto Project are aimed at promoting, at the strategic and sectoral levels, joint/transboundary and national/local integrated coastal zone management consistently with the ICZM Protocol and the relevant EU Directives, through the development and implementation of strategies and procedures for sustainable development of coastal areas. For this purpose, ad hoc methodologies and tools for the planning of terrestrial and maritime coastal space (Maritime Spatial Planning) and for the management of the above-mentioned particularly significant pilot area will be identified and applied, providing for the ability to integrate the activities and achievements.

The identified methodologies should have the characteristic of replicability to allow repetition later on.

Specifically, the proposal provides an operational approach on which the CAMP activities are structured at 3 levels:

1. The **strategic level**, which defines the **main themes** for which to be developed specific project activities and deliverables;
2. The **sectoral level**, which defines **specific activities and deliverables** to be developed for each theme;
3. The **operational/activity level**, which deals with the **operational implementation of the activities** at **joint/transboundary** or a **local/site specific level**.

Identified goals for the CAMP Otranto are:

1) a **strategic objective** consisting of testing the transboundary integrated management of coastal areas (both implementing the ICZM Protocol and the MSP) and, in particular, actions aiming at (1) reduction of **pollution**, with particular attention on marine litter, on which the project should concentrate the efforts on developing best practices shared among Italy and Albania (2) improving **sustainable tourism**, in particular with the evaluation of the identified sustainable tourism activities, (3) conservation of natural habitats and biodiversity, in particular through **marine and costal protected areas and OECM** (Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures).

2) specific **joint/transboundary complementary objectives** with activities specifically targeted on the identified themes:

- Developing specific recommendation on the best application and implementation of the Methodological Guidance of the Common Regional Framework (CRF) for ICZM, on the basis of its testing in the project area**, with the following activities:**
  - Elaboration of a matrix of interactions between the EcAp EOs and the economic activities and natural and cultural elements that have great relevance for the Otranto strait and related coastal areas
  - Identification of the most relevant interactions between EcAp EOs and elements of the ICZM Protocol focusing on the EO1 and 2 (Biodiversity and NIS), EO9 and 10 (Contaminants and Marine and Coastal Litter) and on the Activities (Tourism, sporting, recreational activities) that are important in both Countries; and
  - Operational Recommendations for the Otranto Area based on the outcomes of the two previous activities.
- Exchange experiences and collaboration between Albania and Italy in the implementation of the ICZM and in the maritime spatial planning.

In addition to these activities, CAMP Otranto includes some **horizontal activities**, considered as functional for a CAMP project, and **cross-cutting activities**, which aim at sharing experiences, increase the capacities, promote dialogue among institutions, experts and local communities in the neighbouring coastline:

- Project coordination/monitoring; integration of results;
- Capacity building activities between Italy and Albania;
- Exchange of information, consultation and awareness raising activities;
- Program for results dissemination

As well as,

- **Operational implementation of the activities** at a **local/site specific level**. These country needs tailored activities serve to improve the knowledge on the Barcelona Convention, ICZM and MSP, and the related EU instruments, at the local level. The activities will be a proper combination of knowledge dissemination and practical actions targeting local stakeholders and local community. In particular, are envisaged the following activities:
  - Establishment and implementation of an ICZM management system and audit scheme (**ICZM SAS**). This element should guarantee the coherence, homogenization and interlinkages among the different project activities. At this regard a specific activity should be the definition of an effective operational methodology for the SAS application;
  - Developing of a ***Concept Note*** **on MSP for the Albanian side**, on the basis of the Italian experiences into the implementation of MSP Directive and considering the Conceptual Framework of MSP developing within the CRF for ICZM.

The project overall estimated cost is 550.000 Eur. These costs include the costs for the implementation of activities and the management costs, i.e. costs for two national coordinators and one project coordinator and for a working group of experts.

Activities	implementation	Estimated cost
HORIZONTAL ACTIVITIES		
COORDINATION		180.000
	2 NATIONAL COORDINATORS	
	1 INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR	
GENERAL STRATEGY WITH 3 THEMES		
	Pollution (2 experts)	40.000
	Biodiversity/MPA (2 experts)	40.000
	Tourism (2 experts)	50.000
CAPACITY BUILDING		30.000
AWARENESS, INFO, COMM		40.000
MEETINGS		50.000
JOINT/TRANSBOUNDARY ACTIVITIES		
TESTING THE METHODOLOGICAL GUIDANCE	Bd+tourism+pollution, coast/hydrography (5 experts)	60.000
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES		
SAS	2 national experts	30.000
INDIVIDUAL/NATIONAL		
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY – LOCAL ACTIONS	2 national experts	30.000
TOTAL		**550.000**

VI. Description on specific project activities

In this chapter some deeper information are provided to better understand the following proposed project activities:

1. Establishment and implementation of an ICZM management system and audit scheme (ICZM SAS);
2. Piloting the definition and application of the methodological guidance and process to support the implementation of the ICZM Protocol;
3. Identifying and testing process and instrument/s to reach a trans-boundary cooperation within the framework of an integrated ICZM/MSP approach.

VI.1 ICZM management system and audit scheme (ICZM SAS)

Taking into account the described local environmental, historical and socio-economic characteristics, as a proposal of possible CAMP project activity from the point of view of the national and local interests of both Albanian and Italian sides, it may be considered the **establishment and implementation of an ICZM management system and audit scheme** (**ICZM SAS**) by organisations, as the systematic, objective and periodic evaluation of the performance of such systems, the provision of information on related performance, an open dialogue with and the active involvement of the stakeholders. The proposed **ICZM SAS** is to assess, manage and continuously improve local marine and coastal management and environmental performance, and finally to validate/certificate the process, in particular, of **local production systems of agri-food, artisan and manufacturing type and sustainable tourism** (understood as the activity of the traveller driven by the curiosity to know and discover, always with humility and respect for the visited places), allowing voluntary participation by organisations involving the territory and the distinctive activities located inside coastal zones. It is to be seen as the premium instrument for ICZM management.

On the basis of an initial identification in the CAMP area of the main pressures and impacts (hence the LSIs) and of the main ecosystem services to be preserved, the proposal consists in developing a process towards the implementation of the ICZM/MSP objectives and principles (considering the ICZM Protocol, the MSP Conceptual Framework and the MSP EU Directive), to be validated/certificated by the recognised competent body (PAP/RAC and the National Ministry for the Environment). The proposed process is based on the following steps:

(i) Conducting an initial ICZM review;

(ii) Planning ICZM policy and programme;

(iii) Implementing ICZM management system;

(iv) Checking through internal ICZM audit;

(v) Conducting ICZM performance improvements;

(vi) Preparing ICZM SAS Report;

(vii) Verification and validation by the internal verifier;

(viii) Based on formal criteria, validation/certification by the Competent Body (PAP/RAC and the National Ministry for the Environment), publicly visible and usable to promote the territory and activities as sustainable and coherently managed according to the ICZM/MSP Principles.

The proposed process complies with the implementation and enforcement of EU and Barcelona Convention System environmental and ICZM legislation, which need to be monitored and reported by Member States/Contracting Parties to the EU Commission and the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat.

In this context, it has to be taken into account the role of the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL)[10], a network of the environmental authorities of EU Member States, acceding and candidate countries, and Norway. It provides a framework for policy makers, environmental inspectors and enforcement officers to exchange ideas, and encourages the development of enforcement structures and best practices.

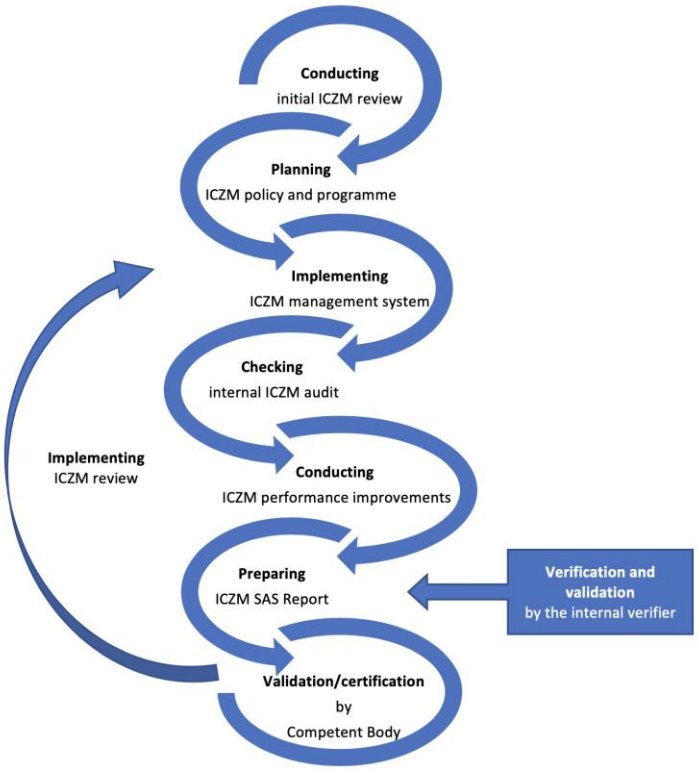


Figure 9 – ICZM SAS process.

This process - which should be properly conceived and structured within the project - aims to experiment a new certification tool, coherent with the European indications, establishing a continual cycle of planning, implementing, reviewing and improving the environmental and ICZM performance of an organisation (territory and/or activities), suitable for environmentally enhancing the specificities and products of national production chains. It is essential at the beginning of this process to clearly define its scope to ensure the successful implementation towards its validation/certification by the individuated competent body.

VI.2 Piloting the definition and application of the methodological guidance and process to support the implementation of the ICZM Protocol

As a proposal of possible common project activity that have transboundary character and need planning coordination, may be considered **piloting the definition and application of the methodological guidance and process to support the implementation of the ICZM Protocol**, for reaching Good Environmental Status (GES) through the Common Regional Framework for ICZM in the Mediterranean (CRF), including MSP and LSI, towards the achievement of EcAp Ecological Objectives (EOs), considering both the national and transboundary contexts. The aim is to test the methodological guidance developed by UNEP/MAP-PAP/RAC in a coordinated and integrated manner with the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention System, and in light with the relevant international instruments.

[10] https://www.impel.eu

In particular, it is proposed the following step-wise approach:

A	Definition of the scales of analysis and elaboration of a specific matrix of interactions between EcAp EOs and elements of the ICZM Protocol for the piloting areas;
B	Based on the matrix developed in phase A, prioritization of the sectors/areas on which operational recommendations have to be elaborated for the identified piloting areas;
C	Definition of the operational recommendations for the piloting areas, based on phases A and B outcome, to be tested in practice within the methodological guidance at the sub-regional level and at the national level, as appropriate;
D	Contribution to a functional design of a specific interactive IT platform as an operational tool to support the implementation of the process, using existing mechanisms;
E	Document lesson learned from the piloting activities (phases A, B and C) and sharing of best practices with stakeholders not involved in the piloting.

Transboundary cooperation to contribute in improving coherence through the definition of common guidelines/operational recommendations within the CRF should be referred to the collaboration, at different levels, among all those Contracting Parties which share the same common Adriatic sub-region.

VI.3 Identifying and testing process and instrument/s to reach a trans-boundary cooperation within the framework of an integrated ICZM/MSP approach

As a specific main example of phase C of the previous initiative at sub-regional level, it may be considered the activity of **identifying and testing process and instrument/s to reach a trans-boundary cooperation** within the framework of an integrated ICZM/MSP approach.

The aim is to develop examples of operational recommendations, strictly dependent on the spatial and temporal scale of the proposed analysis, focusing both on the economic activities and the natural and cultural elements that have a great relevance for the coastal zones (according to the content of the ICZM Protocol) on the considered transboundary context, which show most relevant interactions with the EcAp EOs (priority interactions), coherently with the completed analysis.

Within this process it should be taken into account the improvement of eco-connectivity of coastal and marine protected areas and habitats, applying the blue-green corridor approach.

On transboundary cooperation it is essential the exchange of information, which can be primarily framed within existing regional and sub-regional governance platforms and processes, such as the Barcelona Convention and the European Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian macroregion (EUSAIR).

VII. CAMP Otranto Project activity schedule

The Project activity schedule is outlined in the overall time schedule (simplified) shown in Figure 10.

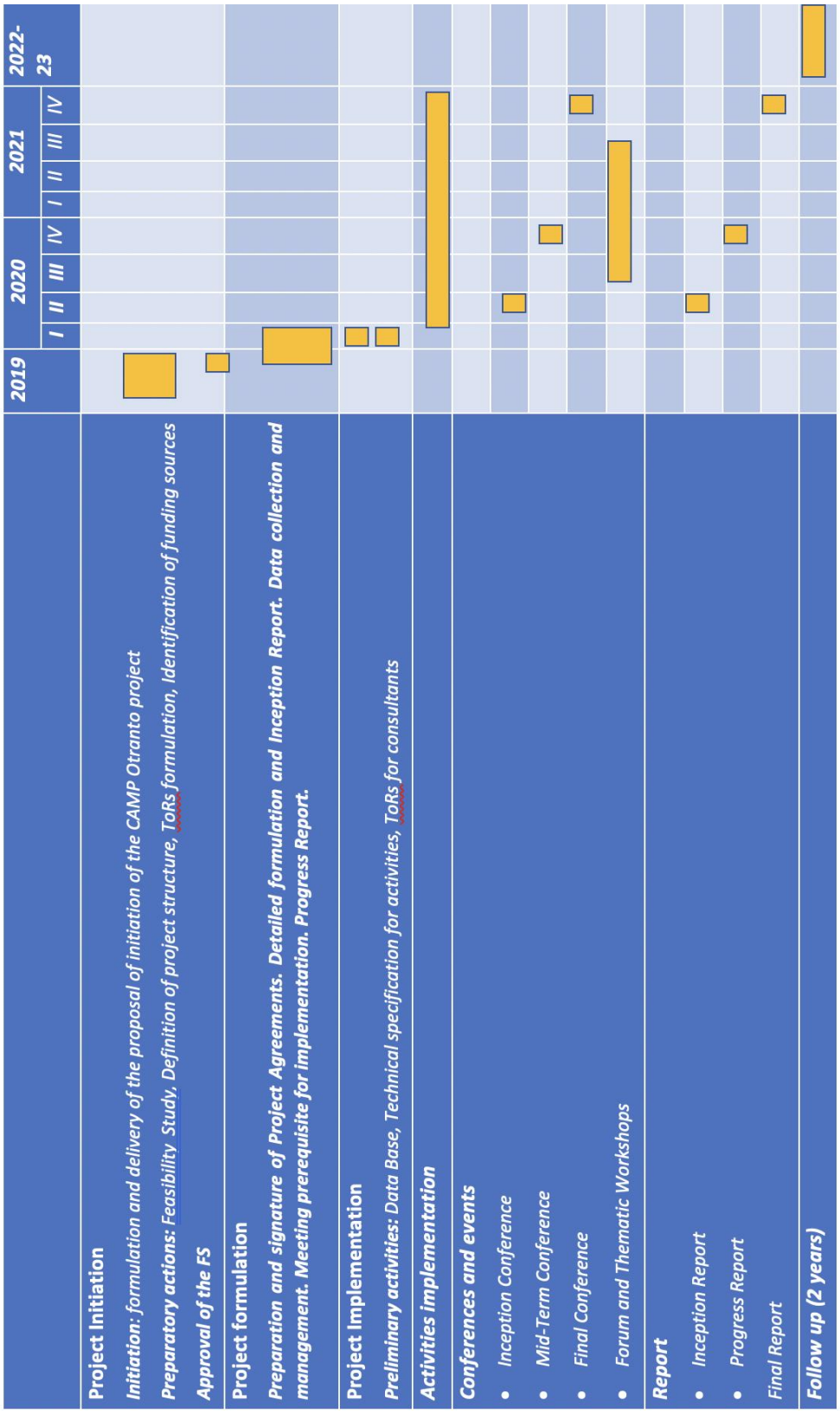


Figure 10 – CAMP Otranto Project activities schedule.

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Annex 1:
Screening of the existing projects in the area with particular attention to the bilateral projects between Albania and Italy'

A screening of the existing projects in the area, with particular attention to the bilateral projects between Albania and Italy (see Annex 1) will allow an initial meeting between the Albanian and Italian authorities and serve as a basis for deciding on the need to pursue the preparation of the Feasibility Study.

Projects related to the CAMP proposed area (with focus on transboundary project Italy-Albania)

No.	Name of the Project	Acronym	Period of Implementation	Donors	Budget	Agency of Implement.[11]	Project Summary
1	Azione Comunitaria per la conservazione delle Aree Protette dell'Albania	A.C.A.P.	2018 - 2021	AICS		CELIM (IT)	The overall objective of the project is to help conserve the protected areas (PA) Albania created after joining Natura 2000. More specifically, in three years we aim to boost the management and conservation measures of the Llogara National Park, the Vjosa-Narta Protected Landscape, the Mount Tomorri National Park, the Bredhi i Hotovës-Dangelli National Park, and the Dajt National Park and its surrounding areas.
2	Sustainable management and tourist promotion of natural and archaeological heritage in the Adriatic Caves	Adriaticaves	2018-2019	Interreg ADRION IT, AL, BiH, MN, RS, HR	1.325 M.Eur	Majella National Park (HR)	The main project intervention objective of the Adriaticaves project is to establish and promote natural and archaeological heritage in caves of the ADRION as an alternative all year long tourism product. The project focuses on the sustainable development of accessible caves including ecotourism, establishment of a network of touristic caves in the ADRION and also conservation of karst areas and the other caves not open to the public with habitat 8310 (92/43/EEC dir), threatened by climate change and illegal dumping.
3	Adriatic Network for Marine Ecosystem	ADRINET	2018-2020	Interreg CBC AL-IT-MNE	1.076 M.Eur	Università degli Studi di Bari (IT)	The overall objective of ADRINET is to improve a joint coastal management system and create governance plans to preserve biodiversity and coastal ecosystems inside the Programme area, whose territories share the same issues in terms of pollution, over-exploitation of fish stocks, illegal fishery, fish sophistication and 'ghost fishing'. The project includes investments in technology, to map fishing routes and monitor sea pollution, and provides services, scientific support and skills for fisheries professionals and consumers, in order to make fish consumption safer and compliant with EU rules and guidelines. https://adrinet.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/

[11] Only the leading partner has been mentioned

No.	Name of the Project	Acronym	Period of Implementation	Donors	Budget	Agency of Implement.[11]	Project Summary
4	Building the ADRION Brand Name in Tourism: Indulging all Five Senses	ADRION 5 SENSES	Feb 2018- Dec 2019	INTERREG ADRION IT, HR, GR, SI, MN,AL,BiH,RS	1.437 M.Eur	Region of Epirus (GR)	The overall objective is to build and promote the ADRION brand name in tourism by indulging all five senses of tourists. The specific objective is to direct efforts of ADRION stakeholders to the sustainable planning of physical/virtual settings and valorization and preservation of natural/ cultural heritage, in which positive and memorable experiences are more likely to emerge, leading to positive outcomes, such as tourist loyalty.
5	ADRIPASS-Integrating multimodal connections in the Adriatic-Ionian region	ADRIPASS	2018-2019	INTERREG ADRION 2014-2020 IT, RS, GR, SI, AL, HR, MN, BiH	1.462 M.Eur	Central European Initiative (CEI) – Executive Secretariat	One of the main reasons that hamper the growth and the economic development of transport sector in ADRION region is lack of efficient maritime - hinterland connections, mainly caused by the existence of various bottlenecks at border level. ADRIPASS will tackle this problem by (1) analyzing physical and non-physical bottlenecks on the Trans European Transport Networks (TEN-T) corridor sections of the ADRION region, with a specific focus on those recently extended to the Western Balcans, where most Border Crossing Points (BCPs) are located and (2) by testing specific Information and Communication Technology solutions for streamlining freight transport in ADRION ports, setting standards which may be replicated to Electronic Data Interchange interfaces at BCPs. ADRION region will therefore benefit from the results of the above-mentioned activities thanks to the replicability of concrete project tools as the transnational action plan for transport facilitation in the Adriatic-ionian region and the Information and Communication Technology action plan for improving multimodal transport in ADRION regions. Setting up an enduring multilevel and multidisciplinary transnational cooperation network (3), simultaneously and innovatively combining a bottom-up and top-down approach at BCPs, will then guarantee an important impact on the relevant area. Through the results of ADRIPASS project, and in particular through the ADRIPASS strategy for the enhancement of multimodal transport efficiency and competitiveness, planning capacities of transport stakeholders (port terminal/logistic operators, freight forwarders, railway companies) and national and European policymakers (Ministries of Transport, European Commission, TEN-T Corridor coordinators) will be significantly improved, since all of them are facing the same challenges concerning the multimodal transport accessibility and network efficiency on the TEN-T Corridor sections in the ADRION region (from the port to the hinterland). Thanks to ADRIPASS project and results the entire process of regional transport planning will be strongly supported and complemented thus allowing an harmonization with EU transport policy in the relevant area.

No.	Name of the Project	Acronym	Period of Implementation	Donors	Budget	Agency of Implement.[11]	Project Summary
6	From Ancient Maritime Routes to eco-touristic destinations	APPRODI	2018/2019	INTERREG ADRION 2014-2020 IT, AL, GR, HR	0.969 M.Eur	University of Teramo (IT)	Involved territories are characterized for having hosted in the past ancient harbors who have been always considered marginal to cities' development, thus scarcely attractive for visitors. The common territorial challenge faced by the project is then that ancient harbor sites have a high but unused potential for economic growth as ecotourism destinations, especially off-season and are also characterized by an insufficient involvement of community actors in cultural heritage valorization. APPRODI main objective is to promote and valorize cultural heritages in ADRION area by enhancing management and promotion of ancient harbors sites as touristic destinations and by improving the involvement of local communities. 5 pilot sites will be valorized as new potential destinations by applying innovative techniques, such as geo-archeological investigations (Ortona, Durazzo, Dubrovnik) whose findings will be exposed in Museums exhibitions or zero impact and zero infrastructures solutions for an innovative coastal and lagoon archaeological park (Torcello, Venice). Awareness raising actions and thematic events will be implemented inviting commercial operators and key stakeholders to promote new destinations and to include them in existing touristic circuits. In addition to the 5 small scale investments pilot tests, project main outputs will include: a joint strategic plan for the promotion of valorized touristic destinations, training to professionals of the touristic sector and unemployed young people as an encouragement of business and trade development based on cultural heritage, the network of "ANCIENT ADRION PORTS City" to strengthen the relations amongst the involved cities through a consolidated community that will be enlarged to other existing ancient harbors located in the ADRION area. APPRODI aims then at a qualitative change in the nature of tourism demand with a transnational approach and at increasing visibility of the valorized new destinations.
7	Boost Environmental Guardianship for Inclusion	BEGIN	01/01/2018-30/30/2019	INTERREG ADRION 2014-2020 SI, IT, HR, AL, MN, RS, BiH, GR	1.150 M.Eur	RDA of Northern Primorska Ltd. Nova (SI)	BEGIN will define models for creation and management of social start-ups finalized to the inclusion of disadvantaged people. Marginalized groups – e.g. unemployed, women, young people, immigrants, disabled, ex-convicts, former drug addicts – are counting significant percentage in every partner country. Innovative feature and main objective of Begin is the creation of tools to encourage the creation and development of social start-ups active in safeguarding of environmental protection for social work inclusion and employment of disadvantaged people, which then contribute to improvement of territories both for use citizens and tourists. BEGIN will transfer know-how from more innovative and experienced regions to those lagging behind creating an

No.	Name of the Project	Acronym	Period of Implementation	Donors	Budget	Agency of Implement.[11]	Project Summary
							innovative model that can be transferred also to other regions not involved in the project. Main common challenge tackled regards environmental protection, also to promote tourism development. This challenge is faced through joint analyses of territorial frameworks to identify work activities at the base of social start-ups models and business models that are involving specifically marginalized groups. Non-profit and third sector organizations are an efficient tool for environmental protection but are not very developed and structured in project countries, except for Italy. Hence, the project will capitalize results of research conducted in Italy by providing specific know-how. Direct project beneficiaries of milestones, outputs and deliverables will be the FACILITATORS OF SOCIAL START-UPS. Indirect beneficiaries will be potential social start-uppers, people with disadvantage employment, employees of social start-ups, research and innovation centers, training centers and employment agencies, as well as legal and relevant public authorities in every country. They also will lay the foundation for the creation of an INTERNATIONAL FACILITATORS NETWORK. This represent the main project output together with a TRANSNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR SUPPORTING SOCIAL START-UPS which will be built on the 10 local-regional strategies which will be realised in project regions. Besides main outputs, BEGIN expects additional project milestones being the elaboration of BUSINESS MODELS for the management and creation of SOCIAL START-UPS as well as LEARNING PROCESSES for the dissemination of business models.
8	BIO-ECOnomy Research Driven Innovation	BIOECO-R.D.I.	2018-2019	Interreg ADRION	1.358 M.Eur	Regional Agency for the Economic Development of Umbria	BIOECO-RDI will improve the situation: (i) creating a collaborative network among Adrion regions, enterprises and academia for collaborative research, knowledge transfer and skills development; (ii) supporting the enterprise and cluster in the transition process toward an industrial model with higher level of innovation and international collaboration (iii) boosting the integration between Green- chemistry and Agri-food cluster according with a circular economy approach; (iv) creating an Adriatic-Ionian bio-based product market; (v) bridging the gap among the existing wide regional disparities; and (vi) activating a mutual learning process among regions with different levels of R.D.I. and bio-economy business maturity

No.	Name of the Project	Acronym	Period of Implementation	Donors	Budget	Agency of Implement.[11]	Project Summary
9	BOOSTing the innovation potential of the triple helix of Adriatic-Ionian traditional and emerging BLUE growth sectors clusters through an open source/ knowledge sharing and community based approach	BLUEBOOST	2018-2019	Interreg ADRION	1.489 M.Eur	Croatian Chamber of Economy (HR)	The 7 regional maritime territories focused by BLUE_BOOST PJT (Zadar county; Marche, F.V.G. and Apulia regions; Western Greece and Central Macedonia regions; coastal areas of Durres, Vlora, Saranda and Shëngjin in Albania) are branded by the presence of maritime (from mature/growing to emerging/just aspired) clusters with high heterogeneity of activities, tangible gap in communication and interaction among their 4 strands and poor attitude to inter-clustering, especially at trans-sectoral level.
10	Climate-Smart Coastal Practices for Blue governance	BlueCoast	2018-2020	Interreg CBC AL-GRE	0.486 M.Eur	Management Agency of Zakynthos National Marine Park (GR)	BLUECOAST involves the cooperation of Greece and Albania to implement actions for the conservation of some of the most important habitats of the loggerhead sea turtle *Caretta caretta* in the Mediterranean, in Zakynthos island (Greece) and the Himara Municipality (Albania).
11	Participatory model for the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources and for cross border habitats, biodiversity and ecosystem services safeguard.	BLUE LAND	2018-2020	Interreg CBC AL-IT-MNE	1.114 M.Eur	Agjencia Kombëtare e Zonave të Mbrojtura, në Shqipëri (AL)	The main goal of the project BLUE LAND is to develop and implement a participatory and ecosystem-based model for the protection and safeguard of marine and coastal resources, habitats, biodiversity and ecosystem services. This model will represent a form of management comparable to that of a Marine Protected Area, with the added benefit of a broader ownership of the goals within the local community and a lighter procedure in the implementation of management policies. The project represents a new approach to the governance of marine and coastal resources, as it fosters mechanisms for the involvement of local communities in biodiversity protection.
12	Safeguarding, enhancing and promoting the natural and cultural heritage of COastal COmmunities by boosting the eco-museum model aiming at smart and sustainable TOURism management	Co.Co.Tour	2018-2020	Interreg CBC AL-IT-MNE	1.079 M.Eur	Fondi Shqiptar i Zhvillimit (AL)	The Co.Co.Tour project aims at securing a smart inclusive and sustainable growth of the coastal communities in the target areas through the development of a cross border eco-museum model and a common strategy, focused on community tourism. The cooperation model will increase a cross border governance of the involved territories, by sharing approaches, strategies and management standards, enabling heritage's identification and safeguarding and developing a community tourism offer based on diversification, deseasonalization, target diversification (young, foreigners, disabled), quality and accessibility of the services.

No.	Name of the Project	Acronym	Period of Implementation	Donors	Budget	Agency of Implement.[11]	Project Summary
13	Cross-border cooperation for sustainable development and tourism, through valorization of rural cultural heritage and conservation of natural asset of areas with ancient olive groves	CROSS BORDER OL	2018-2020	Interreg CBC AL-IT-MNE	0.625 M.Eur	Universiteti Bujqësor i Tiranes (AL)	The main goal of CROSS BORDER OL is to promote sustainable tourism activities, conserve and protect natural resources in areas with ancient olive trees and olive orchards, and increase local and interregional awareness on the cultural heritage linked to traditional olive growing, rural activities and culinary traditions. The project assists communities living in 6 pilot areas belonging to the 3 Programme countries, to value their surroundings by producing and displaying Parish Maps, to promote an appealing tourist offer.
14		DestiMED	2017 - 2020	Interreg Mediterr.	2.5 M.Eur	Regione Lazio (IT)	A coordinated approach will transform ecotourism into a concrete alternative for local development by enabling Protected Areas to: (i) Generate employment and revenue for local communities; (ii) Reduce the environmental impact of tourism; and (iii) Inspire transformative nature experiences and cultural exchange
15	Ecological footprint in cross-border marine fish farming in Sagiada (Greece) and southern Albania	ECO-FISH	2018-2020	Interreg CBC AL-GRE	0.337 M.Eur	Technological Educational Institute (TEI) of Epirus - Special Account for Research Funds (GR)	“Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)” method is used to evaluate the environmental burdens associated with a product (in this case sea bass), process, or activity by identifying and quantifying energy and materials used and wastes released to the environment; to assess the impact of those energy and materials used and releases to the environment; and to identify and evaluate opportunities to achieve environmental improvements.
16	Network’s support for SMEs in the Nautical sector of the Adriatic-Ionian Region	ECO-NautiNET	01/02/2018-31/01/2020	INTERREG ADRION 2014-2020 GR, SI, HR, IT, AL	0.969 M.Eur	Chamber of Achaia (EL)	The project main objective is the realization of a common and innovative ADRION’s Network dedicated to SMEs, Research Institutions and Business Support Organizations with aim of improving SME’s competitiveness and innovation in the Nautical sector and supporting their internationalization. In particular, the main objectives are: ▪ to tackle the lack of innovative collaboration among SMEs across the Adriatic-Ionian area, by using existing successful experiences in the EU area in the field of network model of organization and providing to the actors involved trainings, tutoring and the latest technologies available in the nautical sector; ▪ to realize concrete possibilities of cooperation in terms of process and products innovation among SMEs in the ADRION zone. The main key output will be the ECONautiNET Network, a cooperation network among enterprises, business support organizations and research institutes. This Web platform, managed by network’s brokers and coordinated through a joint management system, will have a specific focus on the ECO solutions in the nautical sector,

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							developing a set of instruments and tools to foster innovation and internationalization of SMEs across the Adriatic-Ionian area. he target groups who will benefit from the main output are Higher Education and Research Institutes, SMEs and Business Support Organizations. The project main results will be: ▪ an effective and stable collaboration between SMEs and/or Research Institutes thanks to a common Joint Management System platform, in order to improve competitiveness and innovation in the Nautical sector; ▪ the realization of collaborations involving mainly innovative key actors such as the Chambers of Commerce and SMEs' Association and Development Agencies, for the development of a transnational and Adriatic-Ionian common ECO-NautiNET platform, aimed to support creation and growth of networks in the ADRION area; ▪ to facilitate key innovation actors' work in supporting internationalization among local SMEs and ensuring common methodologies and possibilities to entrepreneurs and research institutes. The vision of the project is to valorise the important territorial assets of Nautical Sector bringing together SMEs from different territories and deliver to them access to Best Available Technologies offered by Research Organizations increasing their competitiveness. Business Support organisations will hold a significant role in the sustainability and expansion of the Network integrating and promoting the key figures of facilitators, tutors and brokers.
17	Establish an environmental management and monitoring system in line with global reporting	EIMMS	Nov. 2015 –Nov. 2019	GEF, MTE	1.07 M.Eur	UNDP (Intl.)	The main objective of this project is to address the need for an integrated environmental monitoring system in all relevant government institutions and the use of international monitoring standards
18	Increase the financial sustainability of the protected areas system	ESPRIT	2017-2020	GEF	1.42 M.Eur	UNDP (Intl.)	The aim of the project is to assist the Albanian government in reducing the existing funding shortfalls for the protected areas system, improving the management of special protected areas, improving cost efficiency in individual protected areas and developing personnel financial management skills of protected areas.

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19	FACILITY POINT – Supporting the governance of the EUSAIR	EUSAIR FACILITY POINT	01/05/2016-31/12/2022	INTERREG V B ADRION – Adriatic-Ionian Transnational Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 SI, IT, GR, HR, SR, AL, BiH, MN	11.5 M.Eur	Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy (SI)	Challenges: heterogeneity in socio-economic development, imbalances in institutional and administrative capacity, weak implementation of EU policies, different degree of EU integration, lack of effective coordination/cooperation between countries and funds for development and realisation of strategic macro regional (MR) projects, stakeholder involvement. The project provides operational and administrative support to EUSAIR governance structures and stakeholders in implementation of the EUSAIR and its Action Plan. Overall objective: Facilitate the coordination and implementation of EUSAIR by enhancing the institutional capacity of public administrations and key stakeholders and by assisting the progress of implementation of joint priorities. Expected change: STABLE OPERATIONAL& ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT to GB and TSGs to effectively and efficiently carry out their respective tasks and processes related to coordination and implementation of EUSAIR/Action Plan. INCREASED KNOWLEDGE BASE of public administrations and other stakeholders about the MR territory and common challenges to more effectively coordinate policies. Capacities for MR strategic project development and mobilisation of funds for their implementation raised. Improved EUSAIR monitoring framework. COMMITMENT& COOPERATION: Wide range of stakeholders mobilized, committed and motivated in the long-run for cross sector and transnational cooperation. INCREASED AWARENESS on the EUSAIR and its added value. Main outputs/beneficiaries: Events & meetings of EUSAIR governance structures/GB, TSGs, key stakeholders Strategic MR project concepts developed, financial dialogue established/potential project beneficiaries, MAs, financial institutions, GB, TSGs Knowledge base & capacity building events/public administrations, GB/TSGs Stakeholder platform, EUSAIR website /all EUSAIR stakeholders.
20	Flood and landslide assistance and training	FLAT	2018-2020	INTERREG IPA CBC IT-AL-ME	0.959 M.Eur	Opština Danilovgrad (ME)	The main goal of the project FLAT is to improve institutional capacity and create conditions to establish an efficient flood and landslide management system in the Programme area. Specifically, the project intends to improve cross border structures for responding in case of floods and landslides, strengthen the capacity of Rescue Services, create integrated initiatives and multilevel plans and tools for improving protection and risk management in flood-prone and landslide areas. As a result of the project activities, a Regional Resource Training Centre will be set up, and a joint web platform will be created, to share data and real time information.

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21	Fostering tourism innovation system in Adriatic-Ionian Region	FOST INNO	2018-2019	INTERREG ADRION 2014-2020 HR, SI, IT, BiH, AL, MN	1.266 M.Eur	University of Rijeka, Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management (HR)	Project FOST INNO aims to contribute to the long term growth of tourism in the Adriatic Ionian region through innovations capacity building. Common challenges of the programme area as; prolonging tourism season, improving quality in tourism and fostering better tourism employment conditions, are going to be tackled in accordance with sustainability principles to reinforce region's competitive position. The overall objective of the project is to improve and ensure long term competitiveness of the Adriatic-Ionian area by enhancing innovation capacity in sustainable tourism. Hence, the main project intervention objective is to change current practice of insufficient incentives for innovations in sustainable tourism through main project outputs and deliverables: developed strategy for fostering innovations in sustainable tourism in Adriatic-Ionian area, established networking structure and increased knowledge transfer between business, users, academia and institutional stakeholders through Adriatic-Ionian Tourism Innovation Centre. Joint strategic framework for innovation in sustainable tourism is going to improve Adriatic-Ionian cooperation in tourism; giving common directions for policy makers' actions and providing incentives for innovations. Networking structure embodied in future Adriatic-Ionian Tourism Innovation Centre is a multipurpose tool, foreseen as a learning and dissemination platform. Innovation incubation will be main purpose of Centre's activities, designated to facilitate market access for innovative ideas. In order to provide valuable contribution in exchange of cooperation opportunities and best practices, networking structure has to become knowledge base and information hub for different actors such as; SMEs, universities and research centers, relevant tourism authorities, regional authorities, etc. In order to ensure sustainable competitive position of the Adriatic-Ionian area in the tourism market, transnational approach is needed for responding to challenges shared by participating countries. Given the current fragmented situation at macro-regional level, joint development of innovation system will facilitate promotion of innovative activities and transfer of project results into policies and practice. This project aims to create a long term knowledge transfer related to the innovation in sustainable tourism development in order to contribute solving tourism issues that are common for all partner countries involved.

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22	ManuFactUring educaTion and training governance model for IndUstry 4.0 in theAdriatic-Ionian aREa	FUTURE 4.0	2018-2019	Interreg ADRION	1.001 M.Eur	Veneto Region (IT)	The project intends to design a shared strategy to innovate companies approach to training through a Smart Learning Model enhancing shipyard competitiveness in Italy (Veneto & Apulia), Croatia, Greece and Albania. The project structure foresees the definition of a Technological Map of the Shipyard & Nautical Logistic supply chain thorough inclusive road mapping and foresight activity on technology and related competences.
23	Implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning"	GEF Adriatic	2017-2019	GEF	1.818 M.Eur	PAP/RAC (Intl.)	The specific objectives of the project are: (i) to increase the level of knowledge in participating countries to achieve joint assessment, protection and sustainable use of marine areas; (ii) to strengthen participating countries' capacity for sub-regional marine management through targeted demonstration of successful tools and practices; and (iii) to share knowledge and experiences to secure successful participation of stakeholders
24	Highlighting Artisanal Manufacturing, cuLture and Eco Tourism	HAMLET	2018-2020	Interreg CBC AL-IT-MNE	0.976 M.Eur	Ministria e Kulturës (AL)	The overall objective of the project HAMLET is to enhance historical centres, villages and small towns, and highlight the environmental and cultural assets of the selected territories. By developing a common strategy for tourism management, the project aims to boost cooperation between Italy, Albania and Montenegro, bringing up to the same standard the level of products and services offered, gathered under a unique cross border brand, identifying the peculiarities of the Adriatic area.
25	Harmonization and Networking for contaminant assessment in the Ionian and Adriatic Seas	HarmoNIA	Feb 2018- Nov 2019	Interreg ADRION	1.290 M.Eur	National Institute for Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics (IT)	The objective of HarmoNIA is twofold: to share best practices to support the harmonized implementation of marine environmental directives in the ADRION region and to strengthen the network of data infrastructures to facilitate access and re-use of marine data among countries bordering the Adriatic – Ionian Seas.
26	Ionian-Adriatic earLy wARning Monitoring System	i-ALARMS	2018-2020	Interreg CBC AL-GRE	0.464 M.Eur	University of Ioannina - Research Committee (GR)	The proposed multi-hazard early warning system is considered appropriate for the above purposes, since it can be used by the local authorities and the public as an information tool for pending threats. The issue addressed within the proposed "i-ALARMS" project is centered on the development of an operational tool and the assessment of a unique state-of-the-art Early Warning System (EWS) organized according to the nature of the local bi-lateral natural hazards occurrences.
27	Common strategies and best practices to IMprove the transnational PRotection of ECOsystem integrity and services	IMPRECO	2018-2019	INTERREG ADRION 2014-2020 IT, SI, HR, AL, GR	1.254 M.Eur	Municipality of Staranzano (IT)	IMPRECO main objective is to enhance the safeguarding of ecosystem services and tackle their environmental vulnerability strengthening the potential of protected areas in biodiversity and ecosystems conservation through their transnational networking. The Project Partners are daily facing the challenge of Eco-system (ES) conservation and experiencing the relationship between the ES and the Socioeconomic-system (SoES)

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							which produces flows of benefits from the ES to the SoES but also drivers of change from the SoES to the ES. Human and natural pressures are undermining the health of ES and their capacity to provide services fundamental for living conditions of people in the area. A common challenge for the pj area, is on one side, to maintain, enhance and restore ES and their functionality and, on the other, to integrate the ES in local development plans. The project addresses such common challenges applying the so called ESS approach but in an innovative way: unleashing Protected Areas (PA) potential as laboratories to test innovative measures for ES conservation and transferring them in the surrounding territories through the application of a quadruple helix approach. Safeguarding ES requires a comprehensive approach to be effective: by converging efforts at the local level, which requires the involvement of PA managers, public bodies, civil society, academia, economic operators and by sharing efforts on transnational ground since ES are ecologically interconnected and threatened by pressures generated at such level. Therefore, the pj will establish a transnational network composed by PAs and local stakeholders and support it with a common strategy for the ES management and conservation together with a set of innovative governing tools. Thanks to such pj outputs and their active involvement in the pj implementation through a community based management system, the commitment and capacities of quadruple helix actors to tackle threats on ES and apply measures for ES management and safeguarding will be increased.
28	Innovative Cross Border Tourism SMEs Cluster	INNOTOURCLUST	2018-2020	Interreg CBC AL-IT-MNE	0.813 M.Eur	Camera di Commercio Industria Agricoltura Artigianato, Lecce (IT)	The overall objective of INNOTOURCLUST is to improve competitiveness and cooperation of Italian, Albanian and Montenegrin SMEs through the creation of an innovative cross border tourist cluster, focused on the integration and training of local economic operators, so that they can meet the growing international demand for 'tourist experiences'. This will be achieved through the supply of new services, products and cooperation opportunities among SMEs, local stakeholders, public authorities and business organizations and will lead to a new cross border integrated tourism network.

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29	Development of an innovative network for the promotion of extroversion of agro-food companies in Adriatic - Ionian Area	INNOVAGRO	01/11/2017-31/10/2019	INTERREG ADRION 2014-2020 IT, SI, RS, GR, AL	1.060 M.Eur	CHANIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (EL)	The ADRION area is characterized by low innovation performance, limited capacity of SMEs, inadequate cooperation among companies and research institutes, low synergies among agro-food and tourism sector and low implementation of environmentally – friendly farming practices. On the other hand, there are some strong points, such as the existence of quality agro-food products, the existence of a number of competitive and highly active research and innovation clusters, albeit with poor intraregional joint activities, and also the existence of RIS3, where transnational cooperation can focus on, in order to find solutions in the common problem of SMEs extroversion. The field is complex and requires much learning in terms of internationalization, access to market, financing, networking, innovation capacity, business transfer, entrepreneurship, cross – border & cross – sector co-operation, and environmentally – friendly farming practices . It also entails incorporation of new forms of SME development, such as design, eco-conception and corporate social responsibility. The project focuses on the development of links and synergies between farmers, agro-food enterprises, Research Institutes and Public Authorities, for a) the promotion of agro-food products' extroversion, b) the development of agro-food companies' internalization, and c) the promotion of environmentally – friendly farming practices. Project's main outputs are: 1) a Transnational Cooperation Network in agro-food & tourism sector & 2) a Virtual Transnational Business Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center (VIBIEC),offering support through e-incubators, e-business network platform, and other self-assesment tools. The main project's results are: a) the improvement of agrofood SMEs' productivity, competiveness and access to the international market, b)increasing the percentage of agrofood SMEs involved in networking, internalization and innovation process, c) strengthening the links between R&D Institutes, SMEs, and Regional & Local authorities in the field of innovative entrepreneurship and d) increasing the use of environment– friendly farming practices. Finally, the main project's beneficiaries are a) SMEs in the agrofood & tourism sector, b) farmers, c)business support organizations, d) R&D Institutes, and e) Regional & Local Authorities.
30	Innovation in Tourism in the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion	Innoxenia	Jan 2018-Mar 2019	Interreg ADRION	1.055 M.Eur	Region of Western Greece (GR)	The project aims at improving the innovation capability of ADRION tourism sector, relying heavily on innovative products, processes and services that can supplement natural and cultural offerings. The project will network the transnational ADRION quadruple helix tourism community into an Adriatic Ionian Tourism Technology Platform with

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							active involvement throughout the project. A Tourism Innovation Observatory will provide a platform for modeling ADRION innovative tourism, equipped with a Tourism Innovation Decision Support System providing the ability to evaluate the impact of potential interventions on the competitiveness and sustainability of tourism destinations, structures and services.
31	Intermodality Promotion and Rail Renaissance in Adriatic - Ionian Region	Inter-Connect	2018-2019	INTERREG ADRION 2014-2020 IT, GR, HR, SI,MN,SR,AL	1.604 M.Eur	Municipality of Igoumenitsa (EL)	Lagging behind Central&Northern Europe in terms of growth and economic development, ADRION's countries should stimulate the take up of innovative strategies and smart solutions so as to reach sustainability goals. Improving Region's accessibility as indicated in EUSAIR strategy can be a decisive drive towards this objective. What is mainly missing, as proven by the failure past stories, is the capacity of key players & different decision making levels (local, national, transnational) to establish strong cooperation schemes able to enable the desired growth in a territory consisting of countries presenting great differentiations. Based on the principles of smart specialization, that is built on regional strengths, competitive advantages and cooperation, and following a well-defined forward-looking agenda towards passengers' intermodality promotion and rail revitalization, transportation negative effects can be handled and environmental performance in the Region can be improved. ADRION should invest on passengers' intermodality to revitalise itself; the unrelenting strong competition from the road sector should be balanced by the respective promotion of combined sea - rail alternatives. Building on the knowledge of previous projects, especially in RAIL4SEE, while drawing inspiration from ongoing innovative initiatives (e.g. North Adriatic Ports Association), Inter-Connect project seeks new solutions tailored to ADRION's specificities for the promotion of intermodal transport and guides the respective actors on how to turn connectivity plans into reality. Hubs clustering, identification of current and future trip generating poles, user surveys for mobility needs and expectations understanding, mapping of drivers, cooperation schemes establishment, soft mobility measures (e.g. integrated ticketing, harmonized timetables&procedures)&funding opportunities examination, roadmap formulation constitute Inter-Connect approach. Summing up, Inter-Connect project is estimated to boost intermodal PuT based (rail-sea) passenger transport in ADRION through the identification of key players in mobility planning and the creation of a cooperation environment (Inter-Connect Transnational cooperation network) where experience and knowledge exchange will take place. The development

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							of common understanding of area's needs, challenges, opportunities and treats and the reaching of an agreement among stakeholders for the direction towards which mobility planning should focus (Action Plan on ADRION intermodality arising from real needs understanding and flows analysis, Detailed Action Plan based on Inter-Connect cases examination outputs). The formulation of a strategic framework for enhancing intermodality in the area and the respective authorities training on how to implement and finance measures able to add on ADRION sustainability (Inter-Connect Strategy-Roadmap with measures in a hierarchical order).
32	Integrated Sea sTORm Management Strategies	I-STORMS	2018-2019	Interreg ADRION IT, SI, HR, AL	1.405 M.Eur	City of Venice (IT)	The aim is to enhance transnational cooperation sharing knowledge, data & forecasts through a common infrastructure, joint strategies to deal with sea storm emergencies, improving at the same time countries' capacities on data interoperability, early warning & civil protection procedures, in alignment with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The innovative approach on data sharing, the common guidelines on early warning & civil protection, the transnational strategy, and the permanent cooperation table set up by the project will ensure that current challenges are faced & overcome in the framework of EUSAIR and with a medium-term implementation perspective.
33	Low Adriatic Species and Habitat	LASPEH	2018-2020	Interreg CBC AL-IT-MNE	0.504 M.Eur	Consorzio di gestione provvisoria del Parco Naturale Regionale "Dune costiere da Torre Canne a Torre S. Leonardo" (IT)	The project LASPEH wants to face the loss of biodiversity, by defining a common strategy to preserve the natural heritage and the landscape in the low Adriatic area. Special attention will be paid to species protected by the 92/43/EEC and 79/409/EEC Directives, typical of these eco-regions and/or threatened by environmental variations, caused by climate changes and wrong management. The project will create a network of organizations cooperating for nature conservation and improvement of Natura 2000 sites, by exchanging best practices and developing a common transnational strategy to preserve common species and habitats. https://laspeh.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/
34		Lëviz Albania	2014-2019	SDC	4 M.Eur	Albanian Consortium	"Lëviz Albania" project aims to strengthen local democracy in Albania by involving actors and individuals of civil society as champions of democracy for a quality local government.
35	Multidisciplinary approach and solutions to development of intermodal transport in region	MultiAPPRO	01/02/2018-31/01/2020	INTERREG ADRION 2014-2020 HR, GR, IT, SI, MN, AL	1.177 M.Eur	Intermodal Transport Cluster (HR)	The European Commission has launched a Freight Transport Logistic Action Plan (COM(2007) 607) that is proposing a series of measures to promote the freight transport logistics, make intermodal transportation more competitive, create a framework which will allow European ports to attract investment for their modernization, put maritime freight transport on an equal footing with other transport modes and review

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							progress made in development of sustainable mobility. Based on that plan, project MultiAPPRO combines different approaches to reach most of the goals highlighted by the EC. Therefore, overall objective of the project is development of intermodal transport in Adriatic-Ionian region. The first approach is focused on systematic collection and providing solutions to all bottlenecks, both on national or regional level. Since White Paper (COM(2011) 144 final) of EC identifies promotion as one of the priority activities in transport development, the next approach innovatively and systematically performs promotion of the intermodal transport in the region and also creates a network of promotional centers. Furthermore, to assure high quality service, project will design specific port quality measures indicators. Investments in the transport infrastructure require exceptional financial means. These are capital projects, in which cost rationalisation is the key for the future competitiveness of that direction. MultiAPPRO project will thus create a model, that will be able to measure the effect of each new investment, in relation to the existing situation, in a simple and logical way. Hence, it will be possible to bring objective and rational decisions about future investments in intermodal infrastructure, in the area of the entire Adriatic-Ionian region. Given the above, project outputs include development of two supported transnational cooperation networks: 1) Intermodal Transport Network and 2) Promotion network as well as a SSS and MoS promotion action plan and a Transport Performance Strategy. Intermodal Transport Network will be composed of partner representatives, national authorities and experts working on activities to improve regional intermodal transport while Promotion network will encourage establishment of new Promotion Centers into coordinated work of already existing Centers within European Shortsea Network. Furthermore, SSS and MoS promotion action plan will serve as a strategic document for performing common promotion campaign and finally, Transport Performance Strategy will enable actors to define the effect of any investment by defining the strategy and action plan for future investments in the region.
36	Strengthening national capacity in nature protection - preparation for Natura 2000 network	NaturAl	2014-2019	IPA 2013	4.5 M.Eur	AICS (IT)	The project NaturAl has as objective to: (i) implement management plans in at least five protected areas, and (ii) prepare a preliminary list of Natura 2000 sites.

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37	Establishment of the Open Innovation System of the Adriatic-Ionian Region	OIS-AIR	2018-2019	INTERREG ADRION 2014-2020 IT, SI, HR, RS, GR, AL	1.563 M.Eur	AREA Science Park (IT)	OIS–AIR establishes and develops the Open Innovation System of the Adriatic-Ionian Region: a Hub&Spoke network forging lasting transnational links and leveraging the raw materials of the 21st century, knowledge and innovation. The Hub, coordinated by AREA Science Park, connects the Innovation Centers-Spokes-disseminated across the Region: local assets and excellences-research infrastructures, incubators and accelerators, specializations, human capital-are pooled together to create a critical mass, crucial to meet the tech&inno needs of SMEs and generate societal growth. OIS-AIR approaches the transnational cooperation on innovation from a multi-level perspective: strategic planning and policy commitment; skills development; design of tailored tools, methodologies & services; deployment of pilot industry-research collaboration schemes. OIS-AIR unlocks the innovation potential of the Region as a whole: it designs a Pilot Adriatic-Ionian S3 aimed at building initiatives on synergic specialization sectors and KETs and it develops an Action Plan for the Pilot Adriatic-Ionian S3 implementation and monitoring. OIS-AIR is rooted to the ground and fed in a virtual space: OISAIR is a formal Hub&Spoke network of innovation support organizational and physical facilities open to research and companies; OISAIR Hub is a virtual environment for the coordination and operations of the OISAIR network, a web-based portal, an area for knowledge, innovation, technology, initiatives and opportunities exchange developed and fed by its users and beneficiaries. OISAIR network is the gateway to the best tech transfer & innovation support services in the Region: it opens the doors of the best innovation and research facilities to SMEs, start-ups & spin-offs. OISAIR walks one step before innovations uptake: it shares knowledge and anticipates technologies, incubates the best deas and accelerates the valuable ones, develops and tests research valorization schemes. OISAIR pushes research based innovation in SMEs: a tailored Proof of Concept scheme is designed and vouchers are delivered to the 10 most promising co-development projects (research-driven transnational innovation projects) embedded into the pilot Adriatic-Ionian S3. OISAIR is the single marketplace for technology and innovation: be competitive regionally and globally, stay tuned OIS-on-AIR.
38	Ports as driving Wheels of Entrepreneurial Realm	PoWER	2018-2019	Interreg ADRION	1.436 M.Eur	NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL CONSTRUCTION	PoWER aims to support the evolution of ports into Innovation Hubs, able to act as new transmission belts between regions, and to exploit their untapped entrepreneurial potential. In particular, PoWER fosters collaboration among the key-actors of the Innovation Supply Chain

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						TECHNOLOGIES INSTITUTE	(ISC): cognitive institutions (schools, Universities, research bodies), enterprises and PAs, in order to turn the multi-layered challenges affecting ADRION ports into an opportunity to integrate, cross-fertilize and exploit the "power" of territories.
39	Regional Energy Efficiency HUB	REEHUB	2018 / 2020	INTERREG IPA CBC IT- AL-ME	0.744 M.Eur	Ministria e Energjisë dhe Industrisë (AL)	The main goal of REEHUB is to increase energy efficiency of the public buildings inside the Programme area, through a network of hubs, enabling the training of building managers on energy-efficiency measures. In addition, the project aims to guarantee suitable and effective communication to consumers and awareness-raising at all levels of society. The idea is to create public venues where all the stakeholders involved can find tangible examples on how citizens can contribute to a sustainable growth, aligned to circular economy principles. The ambitious results is to shift from old buildings to low-energy or zero-energy buildings.
40	Cross-border cooperation network for an open-to-innovation tourism	REGLPORTS	2018-2020	Interreg CBC AL-IT-MNE	1.151 M.Eur	Agjencia Kombëtare e Bregdetit (AL)	The overall objective of REGLPORTS is the development of a common model and plans for the enhancement of Nautical Tourism (NT) in the Programme area. In particular, the project wants to develop Nautical Tourism in 21 small and medium-sized ports. It also aims to link the selected ports with the inland, through alternative tourism activities, related to natural and cultural assets, sports and leisure activities, archaeological sites and historical monuments, as well as to gastronomy, religion and culture.
41	South Adriatic Connectivity Governance	SAGOV	2018-2020	Interreg CBC AL-IT-MNE	0.656 M.Eur	Instituti për Bashkëpunim dhe Zhvillim (AL)	The main goal of the project SAGOV is to promote connectivity networks in the South Adriatic area, with a focus on the maritime transport infrastructure. The project will provide an exchange of best practices, will single out respective challenges and will come up with concrete examples of integrated governance on the policy-making of strategic connectivity projects in this region. The final aim is to provide innovative tools and procedures that may be used by all stakeholders to improve the planning, implementation and monitoring of CBC connectivity projects.
42	Fostering diffusion of Heating & Cooling technologies using the seawater pump in the Adriatic-Ionian Region	SEADRION	01/02/2018-31/01/2020	INTERREG ADRION 2014-2020 IT, BiH, HR, GR, AL	0.823 M.Eur	University of Zagreb, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture (HR)	The recent Heating and Cooling Strategy of the European Commission indicates that emissions related to energy used for heating and cooling of buildings can be significantly reduced with technologies that use renewable energy sources and have high efficiency. SEADRION aims to identify benefits and barriers linked to the use of seawater heat pump (an innovation system that uses the thermal energy contained in a reservoir (sea) to achieve the cooling and thermal energy in the buildings), to find a system solution designed to improve the use of the

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							seawater heat pump technology and make the building's energy self-sufficient and independent of fossil fuels. The project will install 3 renewable energy facilities of small- and medium-scale power in public buildings with high energy needs to make buildings self-sufficient from fossil fuels. The project will support the creation of a transnational seawater heat pump network in the ADRION region, in order to enhance the science and technology cooperation between research institutions and enterprises in ADRION region. Through the implementation of pilot actions aimed at testing the use of seawater heat pump system, it intends to increase the current knowledge on energy efficiency & renewable resources and define a common strategy for enhancing the use of seawater heat pump based heating and cooling technology in the ADRION region.
43	StrengtHening Intellectual Property and technology transfer processes in greEn sea mobiliTy secTors	SHIPMENT	01/01/2018-31/12/2019	INTERREG VB Adriatic-Ionian 2014-2020 IT, GR, HR, AL, BiH,SI, RS, MN	1.324 M.Eur	Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas	The SHIPMENTT project aims at establishing an innovation ecosystem focused on the green sea mobility sector (referred partially as green shipping in EUSAIR) across the ADRION area. In the medium-term, the aim is to enhance the investments in regional R&D and increase the competitiveness of the local SMEs. Today, the innovation activity in the region is fragmented and confined to the national borders allowing limited space for regional cooperation and economic growth. SHIPMENTT will establish a network of cooperating parties with a clear plan to shape the necessary conditions for a fruitful blue growth innovation ecosystem in the spirit of transnational cooperation. Hence, the project features partners from all 8 countries of the ADRION area. The project main outputs will be: 1. Direct 1:1 support on a) IP management and b) access to finance to 250 SMEs: to improve their chances of collaborating with research institutions and attracting financial resources [short-term impact] 2. Facilitation of industry-academia collaboration for 50 SMEs: via the SHIPMENTT platform [medium-term impact] 3. An all-inclusive strategy: for the development of a regional innovation ecosystem fuelled by blue-technologies in the green sea mobility field [long term impact] The project will a) design or improve tools in the IP/access2finance space, b) implement them in a pilot environment (e.g. 1:1 support and an online showroom), c) extract conclusions about the effectiveness of their use in the region's socio-economic and cultural context, and d) formulate a strategy for the long-term development of innovation conditions in the region. The project presents two novelties: 1. focuses on the green sea mobility sector that has received little attention so far internationally 2. leverages on two critical elements of business strategy and innovation

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							management: a) Access to finance and b) IP protection and exploitation - we anticipate great returns as these elements are interrelated and jointly considered in practically all businesses today.
44	Sustainable management and promotion of common cultural heritage	SMART Heritage	Feb 2018-Jan 2020	Interreg ADRION	1.379 M.Eur	Zadar County Development Agency ZADRA NOVA (HR)	Overall objective of SMART Heritage is the promotion, valorization and protection of cultural heritage in Adriatic and Ionic regions, in particular by raising tourism attractiveness and reducing tourism seasonality of project area consisting in Zadar County (Croatia), Gerace (Italy), Forlì (Italy), Mostar (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Chalkìs (Greece) and Albania.
45	FirSt and last Mile Inter-modal mobiLity in congested urban arEas of Adrion Region	SMILE	01701/2018-31/10/2019	INTERREG ADRION 2014-2020 HR, GR, IT, SI, BiH, AL, SR	1.290 M.Eur	Regional development centre Koper (SL)	SMILE is focused on first and last mile of mobility in some variegated and paradigmatic urban areas of Adrion Region, embracing coastal, inland and bordering cities of different size (capital, middle, little). Urban areas are place where every day residents, commuters and tourists face consequences of unsustainable mobility models and lack of effective multimodal solutions: air pollution, aggravated in many urban areas involved in SMILE by circulation of obsolete diesel vehicles, congestion and related waste of time, CO2 emission, noise, accidents, too public spaces occupied by cars. SMILE will address these issues through a logical sequence of actions and related outputs: depiction and comparison of mobility scenarios to enable policy makers and key stakeholders to better understand consequences of inaction/action; elaboration of a transnational SUMP-Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan as common cognitive umbrella under which to elaborate (or reinforce, where already initiated) local SUMPs mirroring local specific situations; to test by residents, commuters, tourists, freight and bus tourism operators some IT-Information Technology solutions (APPs/Platforms) aimed at reducing/curbing congestion, promote intermodal solutions and make more efficient traffic flows. The expected change of SMILE is multilevel: firstly, to strengthen knowledge and operational capacity about mobility of local/regional authorities; secondly, to test quick-win solutions based on IT, and hence not requiring large infrastructural investments, to promote intermodal transport. The transnational approach is needed because it allows a comparison, exchange and share of experiences. The novelty and originality of SMILE resides in the elaboration of mobility scenarios and SUMP scheme within a transnational context and in the mix of IT solutions that will be tested. SMILE will strongly contribute to achievement of EUSAIR strategy (Pillars 2 &3: “Connecting the Region”; Sustainable Tourism”).

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46	Consolidation of territorial and administrative reform	STAR 2	Jul. 2016 – Dec. 2019	UE, Sida, AICS, USAID, UNDP, Albanian Government		UNDP (Intl.)	The development objective of STAR2 is to guarantee the functionality, recognized by both men and women, of the new local governments, so that the results of local administration and local services are effective, qualitative, participatory and inclusive and correspond to evolving decentralized skills and responsibilities.
47	SUstainable Ports in the Adriatic-Ionian Region	SUPAIR	2018-2019	INTERREG ADRION 2014-2020 IT, SI, AL, MN, GR	1.448 M.Eur	Consorzio per l'AREA di ricerca scientifica e tecnologica di Trieste (IT)	Ports are core nodes for multimodal transport in the Adriatic-Ionian basin and strategic key drivers for economic growth: reducing negative environmental impacts is essential for a sustainable development of the area. SUPAIR responds to a major challenge (EUSAIR strategy, pillar 2, topic 1), in that it tackles reduction of emissions from shipping and on-shore port operations with an integrated approach, enhancing port authorities' capacity to plan and implement low-carbon and multimodal transport and mobility solutions and further empowering the main political, technical, trade stakeholders and partners in related decision-making. SUPAIR firstly establishes a TRANSNATIONAL NETWORK of port authorities, technical organizations, relevant actors to jointly elaborate the project's durable and transferable methodology; then develops operational ACTION PLANS complete with technical and feasibility studies in the 7 partner ports; ultimately implements dedicated actions and produces a TRANSNATIONAL STRATEGY for port-based low-carbon transport systems to increase the network, disseminate, enhance and widen scope, methodology and results. The transnational development and implementation (3 EU and 2 IPA countries) of methodology and actions insisting on a broad range of fields, with an innovative territory-based approach, involving port authorities, technical partners, stakeholders and institutional actors guarantee quality, durability and transferability. SUPAIR's impacts are short-term (7 operational plans developed) and mid- to long-term plans implemented and financed, new actions undertaken following the established methodology by an enhanced and widened network of ports. Benefits for the involved territories embrace enhanced technical capacity for ports, increased empowerment of relevant local organizations and institutions, improved environmental quality and attractiveness, increased investments in low-carbon and environment-friendly port transport and mobility solutions.
48	New technologies in the service of developing interregional thematic routes	THEMA	2018-2020	Interreg CBC AL-GRE	0.553 M.Eur	Development Agency of Epirus (GR)	The overall objective is twofold: (i) to improve the overall user experience that acts as a tourist in the cross-border region and (ii) to enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the region through smart technology and thematic tourism, attracting a new audience and providing advanced and quality services to all.

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49	Tourism Water Management for Sustainable ADRION Coastal Areas	TOUREST	01/02/2018-30/12/2019	INTERREG ADRION 2014-2020 IT, HR, GR, SI, MN, AL	0.971 M.Eur	Region of Sterea Ellada (EL)	TOUREST will support the development and proliferation of sustainable tourism policies & practices to increase water efficiency in ADRION coastal areas, seeking to: a) minimise the negative impacts of tourism activities on natural heritage, and b) protect increasingly scarce water resources. These focal interventions points will directly contribute to the implementation of the 4th EUSAIR pillar. MAIN TARGET GROUPS Territorial public authorities & bodies responsible for policies on water efficiency, environment, and tourism SMEs & enterprises in the tourism sector Key stakeholders, such as water infrastructure providers, business support organisations, and environmental agencies. OVERALL APPROACH AND MAIN OUTPUTS TOUREST partners will employ a comprehensive and integrated studying, testing, and transferability approach, rooted in transnational cooperation, involving all aforementioned target groups and stakeholders. Its main outputs are: A joint ADRION area strategy and resources for public authorities to monitor & assess sustainable tourism water management (O.T1.1) Demonstration of water use monitoring and assessment impact on increasing the sustainability level of the tourism sector (O.T2.1) Action plans (x6) for public authorities and tourism stakeholders of the partners' areas (O.T3.1) To this end, TOUREST will produce the following main deliverables: Studies and policy recommendations for public authorities to support the integration of sustainable tourism water management measures, and for tourism enterprises to adopt best management practices in day to day operations (supporting O.T1.1, O.T3.1). Water sustainability indicators & evaluation criteria to measure tourism sector performance on water efficiency (supporting O.T1.1) An innovative digital tool for SMEs & enterprises to monitor, compare, and self-assess water efficiency performance & efforts, and for public authorities to assess the overall territorial situation (supporting OT2.1) Capacity building resources and policy workshops on sustainable tourism water management (supporting O.T3.1)
50	Tourism Development & Promotion	Triple P Tourism Project		EU	5 M.Eur	Regional Development Council (Intl.)	The project focuses on developing joint and internationally competitive tourism offers in cultural and adventure tourism niches and their global promotion, thus contributing to the branding of the region as a desirable tourism destination. The project will actively involve and collaborate with relevant representatives of public and private sectors including policy makers, i.e. government representatives, tourism boards and tourism practitioners, e.g. tour operators and site mangers, as well as with civil society active in tourism and its development.

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51	WatEr LandsCapes sustainability thrOugh reuse of Marine littEr	WELCOME	2018-2020	Interreg CBC AL-IT-MNE	0.909 M.Eur	Consorzio Nazionale Interuniversitario per le Scienze del Mare (IT)	The main goal of the project WELCOME is to support the long-term marine litter (ML) management, through the development of guidelines, the testing of a soft method for coastal dune consolidation, based on art-driven reuse of wood ML and the increase of public awareness on sustainable development. Data will be used to help local authorities in establishing a sustainable ML management system, exportable to other coastal areas.
52	Improvement of the efficiency for the protection of the lagoons	WetmainAreas	2017-2019	Interreg V	0.122 M.Eur (Albanian part)	NAPA (AL)	The project will inventory wetlands on a national scale and evaluate the interaction between different factors to maintain their protection status.
53	Virtual reality and 3D experiences to IMProve territorial Attractiveness, Cultural heritage smart management and Touristic development	3D-IMP-ACT	2018-2020	Interreg CBC AL-IT-MNE	1.024 M.Eur	Politecnico di Bari (IT)	3D-IMP-ACT wants to enhance a cross border smart and sustainable tourism management and promote the protection of natural and cultural assets of world heritage sites. The project will employ the latest technology in the fields of 3D and virtual reality, in order to promote touristic attractiveness of the region, by enhancing cooperation between universities and public bodies in dealing with the preservation, management and promotion of cultural assets.
54	Trilateral model of civil protection: WAys, Tools and CHallenges for OUr safeTy	3 WATCH OUT	2018-2020	Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme	0.979 M.Eur	Puglia Region Civil Protection Department/ Regione Puglia Sezione Protezione Civile (IT)	The main goal of the project 3 WATCH OUT is to facilitate an integrated and multi- sectoral approach to environmental resources, strongly anchored to local territories and landscapes, as well as able to carry out joint actions for risk prevention. The project aims to define a trilateral cooperation model in the field of civil protection, in order to share experiences and skills related to the prevention of hydrogeological, seismic and fire risks. This model defines rules for cross border cooperation in case of emergency in one of the involved countries, identifying the necessary measures to take, in order to develop a joint risk management system.
55	Accessible Tourism	4ALL	2018-2020	Interreg CBC AL-GRE	0.601 M.Eur	Instituti i kërkimeve Urbane (AL)	The main goal of the project is to support the sustainable development of heritage tourism in the CB area and establish the region as an international destination for senior and accessible tourism, including tourism for persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility in general and their families.