Environmental Quality
EUSAIR

Project ideas

Project ideas (with indicative actions)	Pillar 3 Priorities addressed by the project	Capitalization/existent knowledge basis	Possible funding source	Country
Project to promote a sustainable growth of the AI region by implementing ICM and MSP integrated together as inclusive governance tool**,** strengthening institutional capacities to **protect biodiversity and manage natural and cultural assets**, to find a balance between environmental protection, the increasing pressures of human activities, and environmental changes (especially climate change). This project can build on solid previous experiences of long term partnerships and concrete existent tools. IMAGE will foster the adoption of National Strategies for ICM (ICZM Protocol) and cross-border maritime spatial plans (MSP Directive). Starting fro SHAPE and ADRIPLAN achievements and tools, the project aims at defining the gaps in **marine and coastal knowledge**, identify conflicts and find sustainable solutions, apply **ICM** and **MSP** principles to improve nature protection, guarantee coastal defence, valorise economic activities (e.g. enlarge the area-based protection measures in marine and coastal areas; improving the networks of coastal and inland protected areas for biodiversity conservation and improvement of ecosystems resilience) also in response to changes both natural (e.g. **climate change**) and anthropic (development, growth) to improve the prevention and management of risks.	**Topic 1. The marine environment** **1.a.** Threat to coastal and marine biodiversity Increasing marine knowledge, with focus on maritime spatial planning (including interaction with the coast through integrated coastal zones management) and marine protected areas, also beyond territorial waters; enhancing the protection of marine species by local/regional/national networking; **Topic 2. Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity** Protection and restoration of wetlands and karst fields relevant for the Adriatic Flyway.	**SHAPE project** outputs: - Methodological handbook on MSP in the Adriatic Sea - Adriatic Atlas to support ICZM & MSP **Adriplan project** - data portal - reports and thematic maps **CAMP projects** (Italy, Montenegro, Slovenia, Greece, Albania)	**ESIFs** **National funds**	**Italy**
Project on the protection and monitoring of protected species (sea turtles, cetaceans) as indicators of the GES of the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, addressing the threats to biodiversity (impacts on species of human activities, invasive species, etc) and water quality (impacts of micro litter, micro pollutants and biotoxins). The project aims at establish/enlarge **networks** for protection, monitoring and care of marine protected species (sea turtles, cetaceans, etc) **to improve knowledge** and protection measures (e.g.: census of populations; common protocols for protection; researches on impacts caused by marine litter – microplastic- and micro pollutants –biotoxins- and human activities -fishery, transport, etc.); develop **sustainable fishery models** with low impact on protected species (new fishing tools, training for fishermen, ect).; improve data collecting and sharing by developing an **Adriatic-Ionian Observatory** to maintain the good ecological status; develop a life cycle approach to **marine litter**: studies/testing of solutions to recycle/reuse plastics from marine litter (especially relict nets used for aquaculture).	**Topic 1. The marine environment** **1.a.** Threat to coastal and marine biodiversity Increasing marine knowledge, with focus on maritime spatial planning (including interaction with the coast through integrated coastal zones management) and marine protected areas, also beyond territorial waters; enhancing the protection of marine species by local/regional/national networking; **1.b. Pollution of the sea** Implementing a life cycle approach to marine litter (with focus on floating litter and micro-litter), supporting clean-up programmes in coordination with relevant stakeholders (i.e. fishery); addressing diffuse pollution sources (both land and maritime sources), also from agricultural practices, waste water and solid waste; drafting and implementation of a large-scale pollution Contingency Plan;	Capitalising knowledge/tools on **sea turtles and cetaceans protection** from projects: - NetCet - Tartalife Capitalising knowledge on **marine litter** from projects: - DeFishGear, - Ghost - Marlisco	**ESIFs** **National funds**	**Italy**
Projects on the protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems, aimed at improving their natural resilience against environmental changes. The project aims to enlarge Natura2000 network, develop joint researches on the ecosystem services of the forests (especially concerning their capacity to store water resources to fight scarcity and desertification), develop/improve connections between Protected Areas, by harmonisation of ecological networks and sharing green infrastructures; develop models of sustainable tourism (linked to: protected Areas; rivers for bathing and rafting, etc.)	**Topic 2. Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity** • Developing joint management plans for transboundary habitats and ecosystems and for managing population level of large carnivores; • Protection and restoration of wetlands and karst fields relevant for the Adriatic Flyway.		**ESIFs** **National funds**	**Italy**
Project on the drafting/implementation of a large-scale pollution contingency plan aimed to examine and update the existing contingency Plan for the Northern Adriatic and to extend it to the other Adriatic countries by coordinating it with the existing national contingency Plans.	**Topic 1. The marine environment** **1.b. Pollution of the sea** Implementing a life cycle approach to marine litter (with focus on floating litter and micro-litter), supporting clean-up programmes in coordination with relevant stakeholders (i.e. fishery); addressing diffuse pollution sources (both land and maritime sources), also from agricultural practices, waste water and solid waste; drafting and implementation of a large-scale pollution Contingency Plan;	Sub-regional Contingency Plan for the Northern Adriatic RAMOGEPOL	**ESIFs** **National funds**	**Italy**
Harmonisation of Green and Blue corridors in the ADRION area by integrating new satellite, on-ground and sea monitoring systems	**Topic 1. The marine environment** **1.a. Threat to coastal and marine biodiversity**	**SHAPE project** outputs: - Methodological handbook on MSP in the Adriatic Sea	**ESIFs** **National funds**	**Slovenia**

	1.b. Pollution of the sea **Topic 2. Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity** The main aim of this project is to establish and enhance **Green and Blue corridors** in the **River Basins**, **Coast** and **Sea** in Adriatic Ionian Region. The Green corridors in Adriatic and Ionian river basins should follow the idea *"more space for water"* to minimise negative impacts from climate changes, reduce risks and on the other hand to enhance biodiversity and good ecological status. Green corridors are an opportunity to develop, connect and enhance green infrastructure in the urban and rural areas. The tools for implementation of Green and Blue Corridors (zoning) are the systems of Spatial Planning, Marine Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management to address land/sea interface for sustainable solutions. The new management unit is smart ecoregion focusing on green and blue economy taking into account land, coast and sea interfaces. For efficient development, an enhanced monitoring and early warning system will be developed by enabling the interoperability between new space born sensors with existing on-ground data acquisition systems. Special attention will be payed to maximise the benefits of the Copernicus Earth observation programme that will provide new, extremely valuable source of remote sensing data from the Sentinel satellite system, which EC has recently launched in collaboration with ESA. The new satellite data products will be calibrated and integrated with the existing sensor networks on ground, sea and rivers to provide wide range of target groups ranging from general public to public authorities with vital GIS information that will be of much better quality, frequency and availability that is currently available to manage Green and Blue corridors in the ADRION area.	- Adriatic Atlas to support ICZM & MSP **Adriplan project** - data portal - reports and thematic maps **CAMP projects** (Italy, Montenegro, Slovenia, Greece, Albania)		
Balast water management – implementation of BALMAS	**Topic 1. The marine environment** **1.a. Marine and Coastal biodiversity** Enhance the capacity in transnationally tackling environmental vulnerability, fragmentation and the safeguarding of ecosystem services in the Adriatic-Ionian area Monitoring for invasive species in Luka Koper also testing new methods to reduce the cost of monitoring; - Ballast water sampling to identify invasive species and release testing of new methods to control the implementation of the Convention on the treatment of ballast water; - The establishment and testing of the EWS (early warning system) for invasive species and response;	**Balmas**	**Adrion**	**Slovenia**

	- Updating the system of risk assessments by obtaining new data on invasive species in ballast water environments Sprain released into the Slovenian sea; and - Training of responsible authorities and stakeholders for the implementation of various activities in accordance with the requirements of the Convention on the treatment of ballast water and marine needs of the EU directive			
DEMSNIISI: Development of an Environmental - Metodological Stations Network in Ionian Islands and Sothern Italy	**Topic 1. The marine environment** **1.a. Marine and Coastal biodiversity**		**INTERREG IV - Greece - Italy 2007-2013**	**Greece**
BIOOLEA: Utilization of Biophenois from Olea Euoprea Products - Olives, Virgin Olive Oil and Olive Mill Wastewater - BIO - OLEA	**Topic 2. Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity**		**INTERREG IV - Greece - Italy 2007-2013**	**Greece**
BIG - Improving governance, management and sustainability of rural and coastal protected areas and contributing to the implementation of the Natura2000 provisions in It and Gr	**Topic 1. The marine environment** **1.a. Marine and Coastal biodiversity**		**INTERREG IV - Greece - Italy 2007-2013**	**Greece**
EPA - Environmental park	**Topic 1. The marine environment** **1.a. Marine and Coastal biodiversity**		**INTERREG IV - Greece - Italy 2007-2013**	**Greece**
SAIMON: Satellite Real Time Monitoring Network of the Europhication Risk for the marine waters over the Gree- Albanian crossboarder area (Region of Ionian islands)	**Topic 2. Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity**		**INTERREG IV - Greece - Italy 2007-2013**	**Greece**
Identification, consequences and Management of the Anoxic Zone of Amvrakikos Gulf	**Topic 2. Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity** Amvrakikos Gulf is a 400km2 semi-enclosed embayment in Nirth-western Greece. It has limited exchanges with Ionian Sea, it receives the freshwater of the two rivers having hydroelectric dams and extended lagoons cover a large part of its Northern coast forming a Natura site and since 2008 the main area of the Amvrakikos National Park. Important traditional fisheries exist and several sea farms have been established the last 15 years forming a large fishery depended community. Unfortunaltely the last decades degradation of the sea water quality is observed. More than 50 % of the Amvrakikos surface is covered by low oxygen water masses. Below depth of 20m the oxygen concentration is too low to maintain life. In several cases the upward movement of the anoxic waters induced important fish die-off. Amvrakikos entered in the long and rapidly growing list of the marine dead zones of the world. The aim of the project is to achieve a more integrated management of marine and inland water resources and dynamics of the anoxic zone, by developing the infrastructure for a more efficient monitoring, including important human activities directly linked or affecting the quality of the Amvrakikos waters and by increasing the information flow and the public awareness.		**EEA Funds**	**Greece**
Improving the knowledge in determining the minimum water level and flow of water bodies (in 4 lakes in the Region Macedonia)	**Topic 2. Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity** The project aims to improve the knowledge related to the determination of the environmentally required minimum		**EEA Funds**	**Greece**

	water level/flow in Greek water bodies, particulary under the impact of climate change. The project will contribute to the improvement of knowledge and awareness for the protection and management of water bodies suffering from environmental problems. More specifically, as integrated scientific approach will be applied by the project to quantify the minimum level in lakes and minimum flow in rivers. The project will study: a) water requirements of basic biological features of aquatics ecosystems such as macrophytes and fish fauna; b) climate change and its impact on ecosystems and c) exiting and future water water requirements for the main human activities in the project areas. The aim is to propose minimum water level/flow of the water bodies that will enable the conservation of ecosystems and promote sustainable development with the consensus of stakeholders.			
Dolphins in a bottle: Ensuring the Long-Term Conservation of Bottlenose Dolphins in the semi-enclosed and increasingly Fragile Gulf of Ambracia, Greece.	Activities conducted in the context of the Ionian Dolphin Project between 2016-2020, will focus on identifying and promoting priority actions matching perfectly with those of the Natura 2000 network, which aims to ensure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats, as well as the sustainable use of marine resources, through the progressive implementation of an ecosystem-based approach for the management of human activities. The Ionian Dolphin Project is intended to be long-term and to continue until substantial research progress and measurable conservation results will be achieved. All the IDP activities should therefore be interpreted in the framework of an ongoing commitment towards the conservation of this key bottlenose dolphin population and its increasingly fragile ecosystem. Once a management plan will be produced, the adequate follow-up activities will be necessary to secure its implementation. Other initiatives may include the assessment of the viability for developing sustainable ecotourism activities in the Gulf (i.e., dolphin-watching, bird-watching, fishing-tourism).		The main source of funding of the IDP are the contributions done by participants in the citizen science program. Additional support is occasionally granted from other friend organizations like OceanCare and the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA). Additional support is much need towards the execution of new initiatives designed with the finality of translating science into precise conservation action. Ionian Dolphin Project 2016-2020 (5 years)	**Greece**
Sea Turtle Monitoring and Protection Programme	The programme monitors the status of sea turtles and undertakes protective actions at the major nesting and foraging areas of Greece, most of which are found in the Ionian Sea. Further, sea turtle mortalities, including interactions with fisheries, are monitored through the Sea Turtle Stranding and Rescue Network.		Own funds, State funds, private donations, LIFE-Nature, INTERREG, EPERRA (Program on Environment and Sustainable Development)and others. ARCHELON, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece	**Greece**
S.E.A.I.M.P.A.C.T. - Strategic Environmental Assessment Instruments and Models of Participatory Approach for Coastal Tourism	**Topic 2 : Transnational terrestrial habitats and bioversity**		INTERREG MED 2014-2020	**Greece**