

# PROJECT 'O-LIVE'

<b>PROGRAMME</b>	LIFE+ 2013 – Nature and Biodiversity
<b>DEADLINE</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>Restoration and preservation of <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> habitat in Adriatic and Ionian Sea</b>
<b>LEAD PARTNER</b>	<b>Marine Protected Area (MPA) “Torre del Cerrano” - Italy</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<p>Our purpose is to protect and preserve <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> habitat of the Adriatic and Ionian Sea in order to avoid regression phenomenon caused by pollution and prevent the rate of seagrass meadows decline.</p> <p>For this reasons our objectives are focalized on collection of fruits and shoots from <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> meadows of Adriatic basin, and seeding them into Natura 2000 Sites. Besides, seeds or fruits collected will also be cultivated into appropriate artificial culture tanks in order to obtain fruits and shoots to seed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Protection and increasing the presence of the habitat 1120 *<i>Posidonia</i> meadows (<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>) in present and future Natura 2000 sites;</li> <li>2) Creation of biogenetic reservoirs to ensure the survival of the seagrass <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> especially with regard to fishery trawling and to possible effects of climate changes (i.e. the increasing of temperature caused by greenhouse effect) and invasive alien species;</li> <li>3) Arrangement of an unified and shared regulation at regional and local level for the conservation of the species, in coherence with the aims of Directive 92/43/CEE “Habitat” and Directive 2008/56/CE- MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive);</li> <li>4) Training of operators from EU territory in the conservation of <i>Posidonia</i> habitat;</li> <li>5) Sensibilization of local stakeholders and communities towards the importance of biodiversity and its protection.</li> </ol>
<b>ACTIONS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Detection and assessment of <i>Posidonia</i> meadows and <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> populations in the Natura 2000 Sites of Adriatic and Ionian Sea also paying attention to the presence of exotic species;</li> <li>b) Controlling and recruitment of <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> shoots and seeds;</li> <li>c) Collection of <i>P. oceanica</i> seeds;</li> <li>d) Equipment of artificial culture tanks in order to cultivate seeds and to obtain future new shoots;</li> <li>e) Controlling the growth rate shoots of tanks at different culture stages and how they grow in artificial conditions respect to natural environments;</li> <li>f) Detection and assessment of suitable sites (<i>Posidonia oceanica</i> protected areas and <i>Posidonia</i> habitat from Natura 2000 sites) to seed fruits and shoots;</li> <li>g) Position of “pilot ecological moorings” to protect sites of “reintroduction”;</li> <li>h) Realization of a (mandatory) documentary/educational all the actions etc;</li> <li>i) Periodical monitoring either quality water control (above all for light/turbidity situations) and evaluation and evolution of succession stages and ecological functionality habitat developing in donor and “reintroduction” sites;</li> <li>j) Measurement of leaf biometrical values and variables both in artificial tanks and in “reintroduction” sites;</li> <li>k) Assessment of meadow shoots density and classification according to density and depth; % cover of <i>P. oceanica</i> leaf and conservation index.</li> <li>l) Development of Blue carbon study;</li> <li>m) Transfer of know-how on <i>P. oceanica</i> method of monitoring, culture and collection to all scientists, operators, managers and populations interested;</li> <li>n) Creation of a net of stakeholders of different Adriatic countries all involved in studies, monitoring and protection of <i>P. oceanica</i> meadows;</li> <li>o) Creation of a permanent teamwork on the conservation and management of <i>Posidonia</i> habitat: workshops; brochures and signboards; communication by mass media; the opening of a brand new dedicated web site; the elaboration and production of a Layman's report; the execution of environmental education projects; exchange of experience and expertise among stakeholders.</li> </ol>

<p><b>EXPECTED RESULTS</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creation of a permanent teamwork on the conservation and management of Posidonia meadows habitat composed by at least 8 persons among officials and experts;</li> <li>2. Estimate the presence and distribution of invasive phanerogams alien species;</li> <li>3. Editing of a report and related cartography about distribution of the existing habitat and populations.</li> <li>4. Production of n. 8.000 new shoots of <i>Posidonia oceanica</i>;</li> <li>5. Increase of the spreading of <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> in the involved Natura2000 sites and subsequent improvement of sea waters ecological quality;</li> <li>6. Estimate of the consistency and state of health of newly obtained population of <i>Posidonia oceanica</i>;</li> <li>7. Realization of an action plan for <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> no. 45.000 copies in Italian (IT) and in English (EN);</li> <li>8. Realization of leaflets about a behavior code: no. 5.000 copies (IT; EN);</li> <li>9. Guidelines for coastal preservation and correct waste removal from beaches: no. 3.000 copies (IT; EN);</li> <li>10. Realization of 4 workshops for technical operators.</li> <li>11. Spreading of the obtained results to any level, with particular care to the involved stakeholders and local communities by means of several tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting proceedings (2 events): no. 2 volumes (downloadable from project website);</li> <li>- Web site: in IT and EN;</li> <li>- Mass-media: TV no. 20 reports; Radio no. 20 reports; Newspapers no. 50 articles; press releases: 10 (two for each year of the project); Field magazines no. 5 reports;</li> <li>- Brochure/Depliant: (start up, intermediate and final) no. 30.000 copies;</li> <li>- Layman's report: no. 5.000 copies;</li> <li>- Environmental education project: no. 5.000 cd;</li> <li>- Guided tours: No. 24 (twice monthly periodicity);</li> </ul> </li> <li>12. Documentaries (DVD): No. 2 (middle and final).</li> <li>13. Networking with other LIFE/LIFE+ in EU: no. 10 meetings.</li> </ol>
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