

Acronym – SIMWESTMED

Title – Supporting Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in the Western Mediterranean

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Sector ERC – SH3 (SH3_2_3_9_10)

Iuav Role – affiliated entity of CORILA

Lead partner – SHOM (Service Hydrographique et Océanographique de la Marine) - Brest (FR)

Duration – 24 months

Start – 01/01/2017

Closure – 31/12/2018

Project budget – € 2.822.501,00

Iuav budget – € 140.099,00

Funding to Iuav – € 112.079,00

Source of funding – Call EU: DG MARE - Call EASME/EMFF/2015/1.2.1.3: Projects on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)

Description – SIMWESTMED project brings together a number of partners – research organisations, marine planning authorities and marine management bodies – who have extensive experience with regard to maritime planning, policy and management; and are thus well placed to meet the objectives of the Commission’s call on Maritime Spatial Planning in the Western Mediterranean region. SIMWESTMED will focus on the two key objective stated in the call: 1) support the implementation of the Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in Member States’ marine waters; 2) Launch and carry out concrete, cross-border MSP cooperation between Member States in the Western Mediterranean region, involving four Member States and the relevant authorities responsible for MSP in the selected area, the UNEP/MAP representation and the CPMR for the level of the Regions.

In advance of the project submission, SIMWESTMED partners undertook preliminary discussions with the maritime planning authorities in each of the jurisdictions eligible under the Commission’s call, with a view to better understand MSP implementation issues and knowledge gaps specific to the Western Mediterranean (FAO sub-area 37.1), and how these might be addressed through this project proposal. SIMWESTMED partners will address both key objectives through a variety of approaches, including literature and desktop research; future trend analysis; collaborative scenario development; practitioner/stakeholder interview; development of case studies and stakeholder engagement mechanisms. Sub-themes relevant to both the key objectives will provide the context and scope for how each of the methodological elements will be used. Such sub-themes will include:

- Understanding current and potential future demands relevant to transboundary areas and issues (including the analysis of key maritime sectors and marine conservation demands spanning marine area boundaries, and PELAGOS Sanctuary);
- Access to data and data-specific barriers to transboundary cooperation;
- Development and testing of approaches to stakeholder engagement within marine planning processes in relation to transboundary cooperation in preparing maritime spatial plans.

SIMWESTMED outputs will be practitioner focused, and look to identify and share best practices on: technical (e.g. data management), scientific (e.g. ecosystem based management) and social (e.g. stakeholder engagement processes) aspects of MSP implementation that address barriers to implementation of the MSP Directive and effective cooperation on transboundary working for MSP.

Objectives – SIMWESTMED is intended to support implementation of the MSP Directive by Member States (MS) within their marine waters in the Western Mediterranean region (FAO sub-area 37.1) (Key Objective 1) and to contribute to supporting cross-border cooperation between MS in relation to implementation of the MSP Directive (Key Objective 2). Use of any output/outcomes of the project will be decided by individual MS, as determination of any approach to maritime spatial planning lies with MS for their respective marine areas. As this project will be developed simultaneously with MSP Directive implementation and the partners of the project are involved in such process, the connection and benefits between both actions will be ensured.

Website – www.msp-platform.eu/projects/supporting-maritime-spatial-planning-western-mediterranean-region

Portal – <https://simwestmed.mspdata.eu/>