

Acronym – BeProCoasts

Title - From Beaches to Coasts: towards an Integrated Protection of the Coasts

Scientific coordinator – Giuseppe Piperata

Department – Department of Architecture and Arts

ERC sector – SH2

Strategic emerging topic – Sustainability and Protection of Natural Resources

Cluster – Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Principal Investigator – Giacinto Della Cananea

Organization of PI – “Luigi Bocconi” University of Milan

Iuav role – partner

Other partners – Università degli Studi di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale, “Roma Tre” University of Rome, “Carlo Bo” University of Urbino

Duration – 24 months

Start – 30/11/2023

Closure – 29/11/2025

Project budget – € 236 612.00

Iuav budget – € 25 496.00

Funding to Iuav – € 25 496.00

Source of funding – MUR (Ministry of University and Research) - Call PRIN 2022 PNRR

Description – This research project is about the protection of the coasts, with special regard to Italy. For the purposes of the research project, coastal protection must be interpreted as a unitary but multi-faceted concept that includes both the protection of coasts in a strict sense (that is, their preservation and conservation of integrity) and the enhancement of coastal zones (that is, an advancement of knowledge about Italian coasts and, thus, an increase in the quality of regulation, planning, management and regulatory enforcement regarding private and public uses of coasts).

The research project has three main distinguishing traits: it proposes an approach to coastal protection that is dynamic, interdisciplinary, and helpful for policy formation and management in this field. Dynamic in the sense of being rooted in an adequate understanding of climate change; interdisciplinary because the several challenges concerning coasts (erosion, also as a result of climate change; lack of orderly and regular planning of the various uses; threats deriving from unchecked human action) can only be properly understood against the background of an interdisciplinary approach; finally, the approach that is being proposed may provide insights for adjusting public policies which in the last decade or so have placed excessive emphasis on the administrative regime of beaches, especially from the viewpoint of the concessions or licenses for their use in the light of the EU directive on services (directive n. 2006/123, the so-called Bolkenstein directive), as opposed to a global understanding of the challenges concerning coastal areas.

Objectives – The research has two main purposes. The first concerns knowledge, while the other concerns its possible uses. The impulses flowing from an interdisciplinary approach will allow not simply to collect more data, but to collect data that take all existing challenges into due account. In this sense, the “BeProCoasts” project is a research for the advancement of knowledge. Applying the clearly discernible potential uses of the results of an integrated research to coastal systems, one must keep in mind the ramifications that follow from a better understanding of the various dimensions of coasts (environmental, social, economic, and legal). It is important to make an attempt to provide policy-makers with a more comprehensive and reliable basis of data. But it is equally important to improve policy-making in this field.

Another purpose that may be served by an interdisciplinary research is education: if there is a necessary correlation between research and teaching, the researches that are either conducted or initiated today will provide data and insights for the courses to be taught tomorrow.