PORTODIMARE

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➢ INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Predrag Jelušić, Director of the Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management of Montenegro, emphasized that he is honored with the opportunity to open the conference, and expressed his assurance that it will encourage and deepen cooperation among eleven partner institutions from six Adriatic-Ionian countries. He pointed out that the design and implementation of the **Geoportal**, which is conceived as an **open source platform**, which enables access to all relevant and necessary data, will **contribute to sustainable development of the blue economy and strategic planning of the coastal area**. It is a tool for decision making, from which the beneficiaries will be not only the Government but also local communities, scientific institutions, and other interested parties. **Jelušić** added that, whilst being a daily tool for collecting and inputting data for all relevant stakeholders, the Geoportal will ensure a comprehensive approach to quality coastal zone management. He added that the Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management fully participated in the process of developing guidelines for responsible and sustainable use of coastal and maritime resources and emphasized the importance of cross border cooperation between institutions in the Adriatic-Ionian Region.

The State Secretary at the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, **Saša Radulović**, pointed out that he is pleased by the fact that **Montenegro hosts such a significant conference during its presidency of the Adriatic Ionian Initiative and EUSAIR.** Among others, integrated coastal zone management is one of the priorities of the Montenegrin presidency. In that context, he emphasized the importance of the project Geoportal, which will contain all the necessary tools and data for the successful management of the coastal area. In addition, he highlighted that the Government of Montenegro is strongly committed to the obligations set out in the Agenda 2030, Paris Agreement and Barcelona Convention, and has made significant steps toward international and EU standards, by adopting National Strategy on Sustainable Development 2030, National Strategy on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, as well as National Strategy for Transposition, Implementation and Enforcement of the EU acquis on Environment and Climate Change. In that regard, **Radulović** expressed the expectation that Chapter 27, in the process of negotiations with the EU, will be opened by the end of this year. He furthermore stressed that he is especially proud of a pilot project applying the ecosystem approach in Boka Bay, which was one of the activities within National Strategy on ICZM. As he explained, the pilot project was successful and in line with the Barcelona Convention and EU MSFD Directive and pointed out the outstanding results achieved during the implementation of various projects in Montenegro.

Vučić Ćetković, Advisor of NIPAC and Deputy of EUSAIR Coordinator for EU funds, greeted the participants of the conference on behalf of the European Integration Office and the Presidency of Adriatic Ionian Initiative and EUSAIR. He reminded that in May this year, Montenegro took over the presidency as a non-EU member state. He highlighted that **the topic of the conference is in accordance with one of the priorities of the presidency**. In

this regard, he pointed out that he **perceives the Geoportal as a key tool for promoting and improving sustainable blue growth.** The goal of the Geoportal is to be completely functional on the macro-regional level. **Ćetković** added that Montenegrin partners are involved in the implementation of fifteen projects selected under the 1st Call for Proposal. With a total budget of 1.6 million EUR, the goal is to build the capacity in transnationally tackling environmental vulnerability, fragmentation and the safeguarding of ecosystem services in the Adriatic Ionian area. PORTODIMARE and Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management, as its Montenegrin partner, are considered to be in full compliance with the ICZM and MPS and are committed to supporting the implementation of the EUSAIR Action plan. Montenegrin institutions and organizations will be confident partners in future EUSAIR and ADRION Program activities and will continue creating strong ties with EUSAIR, **Ćetković** concluded.

Olga Sedioli, the coordinator of PORTODIMARE project (Emilia Romagna region - project Lead Partner), expressed her gratitude to Montenegrin partners and EUSAIR for organizing this important event. She acknowledged synergic work of all focal points that share common goals and vision, which speaks in favor of successful and fruitful cooperation. **Sedioli** added that, with all policy instruments now in place, ideas and goals are easily achievable. **Sedioli** reminded that the cooperation has not started with this project, but twelve years ago. Speaking from the perspective of the lead partner, explained that Emilia Romagna region is a coordinator of the activities of all other Italian regions included in EUSAIR. She pointed out that this conference is the proof of the added value and connectivity of the PORTODIMARE project and EUSAIR.

➢ Session I: MSP, ICZM and LAND&SEA INTERACTION within EUSAIR

Moderator of the first session, **Peter Mackelworth**, Conservation Director from the Blue World Institute, presented several questions and key topics for further discussion: What is the role of MSP-ICZM as a tool to promote coordination and collaboration between the stakeholders and relevant authorities within the EUSAIR? How can the strategic objectives promoted by EUSAIR be translated into concrete actions taken at the national/sub-national/local level? How can national MSP/ICZM processes align to produce a coherent picture at the scale of the AIR, bearing in mind the differences in competence, compatibility, and capacity between the participating states? How can PORTODIMARE build upon the projects and processes already undertaken within EUSAIR, and what can be done to promote cooperation and long-term use of this tool?

In his keynote speech, **Emiliano Ramieri**, THETIS, MSP expert of the European MSP Platform for Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece and Cyprus, highlighted the importance of multi-scalar stakeholder approach to MSP, coherent and integrated planning, challenges, but also opportunities for establishing exclusive economic zones - EEZs, which would lead to extended area of MSP implementation, providing opportunities for both managed exploitations of marine resources and improved conservation. **Ramieri** underlined the high relevance of LSI in the AIR, as one of the elements calling for an integrated ICZM-MSP process.

He explained that MSP/ICZM is a multi-scale exercise which challenges governance at all levels, from macro-regional to sub-national/local. In addition, he explained that the WGs role is to share experience and knowledge, good practices, but also to enable the formal consultation process, etc. He presented several examples from EU countries, stating that the region can rely on their wide project experience ((i) the UK – with the focus on Scotland's National MSP Plan which will be supplemented by regional plans, (ii) the model in Scandinavian countries - Sweden where 3 national MSP plans will have to coordinate to municipality plans extending to territorial water, and (iii) Poland where there is one major plan for the entire maritime region and examples from Malta and Italy) emphasizing that there are different challenges as well as different possibilities. In conclusion, he pointed out that there should be a multiscale approach to applying MSP/ICZM considering the methods of interfacing at different levels especially the role of coordination between these levels (top-down vs. bottom-up) and that there should be clear responsibility of who, how and when to apply the MSP.

Ivana Stojanović, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and member of EUSAIR TSG3, pointed out the significance of synergic action of all stakeholders in this field. She presented important regionally and sub-regionally available instruments to support ICZM and MSP in Montenegro (MED Programme, CAMP, GEF Adriatic project, National strategy on ICZM from 2015, NSSD 2030, and NEAS with AP 2016-2020, etc.). In that context, PORTODIMARE/Geoportal will overcome gaps in the coastal zone management systems such as information system weaknesses and lack of/unavailability of functional data. Additionally, it will also overcome the lack of data used for monitoring and evaluation of the results of implemented measures in the coastal zone. In order to accomplish mentioned improvements, it is necessary to ensure sufficient capacities (technical, human, financial) of competent institutions, but also to provide adequate coordination mechanisms and ensure synergies with other regional and sub-regional initiatives. **Stojanović** highlighted that one of the objectives of this project is sharing knowledge and best practices, such as the tested methodology in Boka Kotorska Bay, Montenegro, based on the ecosystem approach and IMAP of Barcelona Convention for MSP. He also emphasized the importance of ICZM and MSP which contribute to the sustainable development of the coast.

Sofia Loukmidou, Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food, EUSAIR Coordinator for TSG1, presented the steps that were taken in Greece for the implementation of Pillar I - Blue Growth. **Loukmidou** emphasized that all stakeholders were included in the process (line ministries, regions, scientific institutions, etc.). The aim was to determine an innovative maritime and marine growth in the Region by promoting sustainable economic growth, jobs and business opportunities in the blue economy. She stated that the first pillar is consisted of three sub-pillars, based upon the Action plan: blue technologies (R&D platforms on green sea mobility, deep sea resources, biosecurity and biotechnologies), fisheries and aquaculture (scientific cooperation on fisheries and fish stocks, R&D platform for seafood, etc.), and maritime and marine governance and services. Implementation in Greece consisted of TWGs on national level, identification of priorities, exploring sources of possible findings, the establishment of a database inventory in order to identify the starting point and the goal, and identification of project ideas. In addition, she stressed the importance of promoting horizontal communication, capacity building, and blue skill development. **Loukmidou**

informed about ongoing Interreg Med Call and EMFF Blue Economy Call and their objectives. He also pointed out that it is very important that this conference was organized back-to-back with EUSAIR TSG1 and TSG3 meetings contributing to the strengthening of transnational cooperation.

Andrea Barbanti, National Research Council, Institute of Marine Sciences, Venice – CORILA and coordinator of PORTODIMARE project working package T1 "Geoportal Design and Development", stated that the MSP/ICZM are cross-cutting issues in EUSAIR AP and their implementation requires multi-level governance, which must combine planning-driven strategic approaches with bottom-up sectoral and local drivers. EUSAIR is producing several benefits: awareness raising, focusing actions, raising funds, building a network, and joint efforts. **Barbanti** added that the MSP/ICZM can support implementation and primarily improve effectiveness in the medium-long term: sustainability, reduction of impacts and conflicts, and promotion of synergies. EUSAIR must fully recognize the importance of MSP-ICZM and promote its implementation on a macro-regional scale, in order to align national processes for a more coherent picture. Additionally, **Barbanti** emphasized that the national implementation processes must properly consider cooperation among the Member States and non-EU countries. PORTODIMARE can build upon the projects and processes already undertaken within the EUSAIR by tackling specific aspects of MSP/ICZM, such as data availability and sharing, and tools to support planning and decision making. Moreover, countries and regions of the AIR should recognize the added value of PORTODIMARE Geoportal, endorse it and establish a long-term cooperation.

Marko Prem, Deputy Director at PAP/RAC of UNEP-Mediterranean Action Plan and coordinator of PORTODIMARE project working package T2 "Geoportal Testing and demonstration: towards the plans", presented the tools for the promotion of coordination and collaboration of all relevant stakeholders and authorities, including main principles: general obligations, objectives, coordination, participation and transboundary cooperation. **Prem** highlighted the importance of stakeholders' involvement throughout the whole process, not only at the beginning and end. He pointed out several methods to engage stakeholders, including the definition of starting and end points, and establishing the list of indicators for the development of sustainability plans. While presenting the scope of the Common Regional Framework for ICZM and MSP (*a policy document in preparation*), **Prem** emphasized CRF principles of **strengthening the integration and sub-regional cooperation**, while **improving the coherence of BC/sub-regional and national policies and documents**. Common Regional Framework for ICZM and MSP (CRF) will ensure sustainable development and integrity of the coastal zone, address natural hazards and achieve good governance.

Key comments on the implementation of the IZCM were delivered by the panelists and were directed towards the **need for integration and synergy**, having in mind numerous existing parallel strategies and processes. **Cooperation of all stakeholders** and interested parties, alongside with the **database of all current and past projects of PORTODIMARE**, are perceived as equally important as the indispensable **cross-border and transnational cooperation.**

Key messages:

1. MSP/ICZM should promote multiscale linkages and governance to be successful: national strategies should be driven by local processes (bottom-up) while at the same time strategic process shall frame the action of the sub-national levels;

2. We should look to facilitate access to the MSP/ICZM process for local stakeholder groups, businesses and other interested parties;

3. We need to transform data to wisdom, acknowledging appropriately how data is generated and where that data originates thereby encouraging greater data availability;

4. MSP/ICZM should be a cross-cutting platform through which the EUSAIR Pillars can cooperate to balance Blue Growth with Environmental Protection, thereby improving the use of maritime space;

5. The EUSAIR should, where possible, encourage national authorities to integrate policy to be consistent at a regional scale;

6. We need to integrate policies and simplify these policies so that the implications are clear for the relevant authorities and stakeholders;

7. There is a need synergy the processes and commitments that the relevant authorities have to the various regional authorities, including the EU and Regional Seas Programme;

8. PORTODIMARE must take into account all of the work being carried out at all levels and bring together all of the information to allow to plan for the future that serves the needs for the region;

9. To use EUSAIR to promote MSP, and to use MSP to achieve EUSAIR objectives;

10. Cross border coordination of the countries putting the EUSAIR political framework into practice.

➢ Session II: Geoportal and decision-support tools as result of PORTODIMARE project

Moderator of the second session, **Andrea Barbanti**, presented several discussion topics, including: 1)the importance of data availability and data sharing for ICZM/MSP (within and among countries), 2)From data to wisdom approach: which kind of tools do we need (e.g. impacts, conflicts, addressing sectoral measures and decisions, promoting stakeholder engagement and multi-level governance, addressing socio-economic aspects) and 3)How can data and tools be directly, transparently and effectively ("Tools, not Toys") used within ICZM-MSP processes, promoting their use and long-term durability and sustainability?

Keynote speeches were delivered by **Olga Sedioli**, **Daniel Depellegrin**, and **Luisa Perini**.

Sedioli presented the PORTODIMARE project (implementation period February 2018 – January 2020), supported by the Interreg ADRION Programme, and funded under the

European Regional Development Fund and IPA II Fund, with a total budget **of 1.581.219, 65 EUR**. She presented the project partners and pointed out the main goal of the project as well as key modules of the Geoportal. **Sedioli** emphasized that the PORTODIMARE will create a common platform (Geoportal) for data, information and decision support tools focused on coastal and marine areas of the Adriatic-Ionian Region.

Depellegrin, National Research Council, Institute of Marine Sciences, Venice – CORILA, presented main **tools** within ICZM-MSP Process and emphasized key long-term perspective development indicators: thematic, conceptual, and technical continuity, and continuous cooperation with stakeholders and authorities. The Tools4MSP Geo platforms, in support to MSP and Coastal Planning, will be an open source web platform for MSP oriented data and knowledge sharing within the Adriatic-Ionian Sea. **Depellegrin** addressed the importance of incorporating socio-ecological analysis into spatial tools. He presented key challenges for successful implementation, such as harnessing information from multiple sources and multiple expert fields, communication with stakeholders, and finding best practices for increasing robustness and logic of tools.

Perini pointed out that the Geoportal and the "**data issue**" in ICZM-MSP emphasized the importance of knowledge-based approach and the use of the updated and scientifically collected standardized data. ICZM and MSP should be assessed trough environment, resource availability, human uses and climate dynamics. **Perini** referred to the (un)availability of dense data on environmental topics as one of the key issues. Geoportal will, in this sense, integrate new analytical tools specifically oriented to ICZM-MSP, and will become a point of reference for future implementation of programs and plans within the AIR. It will be user-friendly and properly connected with other sources of information developed at the EU level.

The first panelist of the Session II, **Sofia Loukmidou**, referred to **Barbanti's** discussion point on the importance of data availability and sharing for ICZM/MSP, stating the importance of developing an international network since the very beginning. She added that, while planning for the future, it is important to fully acknowledge the present state of the matter in hand. The next step would be to identify priorities and further improve the data availability. Her previous experience in fisheries required a common reference for the unified data structure.

Prof. Ph.D. Peter Mackelworth, Conservation Director, Blue World Institute, Croatia and Adjunct Professor, University of Primorska, Slovenia, stressed the importance of regional coordination and transboundary conservation and explained that we should consider how to integrate systematic conservation planning into the broader maritime spatial planning. **Mackelworth** pointed out the importance of human dimensions of conservation with special attention to the network of scientists and stakeholders who are involved in marine conservation, power dynamics within the EUSAIR, conservation marketing, conservation psychology and legislation and conservation law. He explained that it is crucial to bridge the gap between conservation science and policy makers.

Prof. Ph.D. Pascal Derycke, the technical coordinator in the European Marine Observation and Data Network Secretariat, explained that **EMODnet** is a network of more than 150 organizations, which are supported by the EU's integrated maritime policy to

observe the sea, process the data according to international standards, and make the information freely available as interoperable data layers and data products. **Derycke** pointed out that the benefits of sharing interoperable data are the reduction of uncertainty in our knowledge and ability to forecast the behavior of the sea, to improve offshore operators' efficiency and costs in gathering and processing marine data, as well as to stimulate competition and innovation in established and emerging maritime sectors. **Derycke** informed that EMODnet is developing a vessel density map in order to improve environmental modeling.

Prof. Ph.D Ameer A. Abdulla, Senior Advisor in European Topic Centre for Spatial Analysis – University of Malaga, presented Main Workflows in the Mediterranean Program in the context of mapping the activities of multiple sectors and ecologically sensitive areas, ecoregional planning in the Mediterranean and EBM approach for socio-ecological resilience and uncertainties. **Abdulla** pointed out that the Mediterranean is made up of seven ecoregions that can be seen as ecosystems with unique functioning processes and can act as transboundary planning and management units. **Abdulla** emphasized the importance of the EBM approach, which ensures that socio-ecological resilience and uncertainties are addressed while user conflict is reduced, allowing for a balance between immediate and long-term needs.

The following discussion with the audience addressed potential political framework for exchanging collected data between the countries. **Loukmidou** informed that there is no legislative framework for such approach, rather a commitment and agreement to cooperate.

Further questions were directed towards tracking the existing databases in a systematic way and the sustainability of the PORTODIMARE project upon its completion. **Derycke** informed that the data is qualified in respect of the quality and further distributed as such, adding that EMODnet delivers data, not generate indicators. When asked about the data of the EMODnet and its accessibility to non-EU countries, **Derycke** stated that some data is available for IPA countries (i.e. biology, chemistry and physics), while the data on i.e. fisheries is sensitive and for internal use only.

Barbanti addressed the sustainability question, stating the importance of stimulating interest during the project, and ensuring commitment from partners and keeping it at a reasonable level. Additionally, he pointed out that it is not only the data that needs to be shared, but tools and practices as well. He referred to previous experiences with projects (i.e. SHAPE), adding the need for continued utilization of the portal after the project ends.

When asked to **identify the most important tool**, **Derycke** stressed the importance of proper methodology and the ability to reuse and share already collected data. **Abdulla** emphasized the significance of integration and simplification; **Mackelworth** pointed out the data to wisdom approach and the importance of capacity building across the border, stating that capacity creates transparency. **Perini** emphasized the need for a thorough conflict analysis. **Depellegrin** commented on the role of conflict-oriented macro-regional strategies and the need for further development of synergies. Further, he pointed out the importance of socio-economic data and its use. **Sedioli** define operation and common language as the key tools for further successful development of the project.

During the discussion, there were also words about the use of Geoportal data after the project was completed. **Barbanti** explained that Geoportal should be maintained as well as that all project partners should use the data and Geoportal after completion of the PORTODIMARE project. He added that it is particularly important that other institutions also use Geoportal and emphasized that the use of Geoportal in the future it is crucial.

Poster session:

After the discussion, the moderator of the Session II briefly introduce the posters and asked the audience to look at the posters hanged at the poster area. Within the poster sessions, posters on the Geoportal and the Tools/Modules developed and integrated into the Geoportal:

- Maritime Use Synergy & Conflict Module (MUSC);
- Cumulative Effects Assessment Module (CEA);
- Aquaculture - Supporting AZA identification;
- Module for particle/conservative contaminants dispersion;
- Module for Coastal Oil Spill Vulnerability Assessment;
- Module for Small Scale Fishery Footprint (SSF);
- Module on Medium Scale Fishery Footprint (MSF) & Cumulative Effects Assessment on SSF & MSF)

produced by project partners responsible for different modules are presented.

Key messages:

1) The importance of data availability and data sharing, within countries and between countries, for ICZM-MSP and to accomplish EUSAIR strategic objectives is highly recognised.

2) From data to wisdom: a wide range of tools is needed to feed the planning and management process. Providing gateways to marine data is not enough, if we do not succeed in building effective workflows from data to wisdom.

3) Cooperation and capacity building are key to benefit from data and tools, informing planning at proper scales and using ecosystem-based approaches.

➢ Session III: Examples from practice and demonstration project

M. Prem pointed out that the **presentation of the pilot projects** is not just an exercise, as the examples from practice contribute to both national and transnational ICZM-MSP dimension. In this regard, the most important objective is communication with stakeholders and authorities, and transferability of results.

Marina Lipizer, National Institute for Oceanography and Applied Geophysics, Trieste, spoke about the **HARMONIA** project (Harmonization and Networking for Contaminant Assessment

in the Ionian and Adriatic Seas), developed with the aim to enhance the capacity in transnationally tackling environmental vulnerability, fragmentation, and safeguarding ecosystem services in the AIR. In order to overcome key challenges (unavailability of the data, dense biodiversity and pollution), the approach will entail establishing an AIR network of agencies and institutes in charge in the assessment of marine contaminants. Additionally, it will propose a regional strategy for a shared and harmonized evaluation of the risk due to contaminant dispersion from different sources of pollution, while sharing the best practices and collecting datasets of contaminants of the Adriatic-Ionian region.

Alessandro Sarretta, NRC, Institute of Marine Sciences, presented the project **I-STORM** (Integrated Sea Storm Management Strategies) aimed at tackling territorial challenges linked to the management of storm surges in the AIR. The project will improve early warnings and civil protection procedures in sea storm emergencies by sharing knowledge, data and forecasts. I-STORMS Web Integrated System will include common sharing system of ocean observations and numerical results, Transnational Multi-Model Ensemble (TMES) composed by available sea state forecasts, collaborative geoportal to access both observations and TMES products, and toolsets/dashboards for general public use.

Latinka Janjanin, Institute for Physical Planning Region of Istria**,** presented the pilot project on **threats to coastal and marine biodiversity**, **focusing on Vrsar and Funtana islands in Croatia**. Istria county, as one of the SPAs and SACs, is a part of the Natura 2000 ecological network, from which the pilot project on terrestrial mapping is initiated. The testing site is a protected coastal area. The used model is the cumulative impact model (ports, coastal tourism, etc.), with a multi-scalar stakeholder approach. With the reality of climate change and global warming, the implementation of the cumulative impact model and the LSI is necessary. **Janjanin** further informed about the spatial plan for the Istria region, which includes 20 islands, using descriptors of the marine environment and geographic information system data.

Luisa Perini informed about the activities within the pilot project aimed at testing models for T2.3 (Evaluating sea uses sustainability in region Emilia Romagna), that covers 130 km of coastline, with sea area of 5300 km2, as well as T1.6 (Module on analysis of conflicts and synergies among sea uses) and T1.7 (Module for the analysis of cumulative impacts). **Perini** pointed out that the expected results will be transferred not only to the National Technical Committee responsible for the implementation of MSP but will be also used by the regional government. **Perini** stated that the main challenges of the pilot project are data accessibility and raising awareness of all relevant authorities. She added that there is a lack of data in the field of water resources/biological water quality measurement.

Maria Kikeri, Stefanos Kavadas, Vassiliki Vassilopoulou, presented a project on **spatial conflicts among human activities and conservation priority areas in Western Greek waters**, stating that the aim of the study is to improve the cumulative impacts tools. The data will refer to both human activities and ecosystem components. Human activities will, in this regard, relate to fishing, maritime transportation, aquaculture farms and touristic areas. The cumulative impact assessment, a 4-step process, will be focused on data assembling (for each human activity and ecosystem component), transforming and normalizing each human activity and converting the ecosystem data into presence/absence. Ultimately, the assessment

will result in creating weight matrix and estimating impact score.

Giovanna Marrama, Service for Maritime Works and Maritime Weather, spoke on the pilot project **Abruzzo Coastal Evolution Mapping**. The testing will analyze ca. 90 km of sandy coastline along 19 coastal municipalities. The critical issues characterizing the coastal area are represented by the anthropological use of the coast and possible intrusion of biochemical contaminants near the main watercourses. The pilot project will draft a map representing the coastline evolution (period 2000-2015), at the service of regional users and territorial management policies. The project will deepen the aspects related to the integrated management of the coastal area and the planning of the maritime space, evaluating the relationships between the evolution of the coastline and elements or activities of the landscape.

Slavko Mezek, RRC Koper**,** spoke about the spatial conflicts among existent uses on the sea and the coastal strip along Slovenian coast, a pilot project aimed to contribute to MSP process by analyzing conflicts/synergies among sea users and identifying potential sites for aquaculture in the SI sea. **Mezek** emphasized the main issues to the marine environment of the SI territorial sea, such as high density of existing uses, marine ports and tourism, with a high chance for each to expand extensively in the near future. The used data will be related to conflicts and synergies among sea uses; chemical, physical and biological characteristics; current sea uses; mariculture areas and its expansion, and socioeconomic data. **Mezek** added that the stakeholder list was already established through the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, and that the next steps will be in line with the activities of the MESP.

Vedad Suljić, CETEOR, Bosnia and Herzegovina, spoke on **spatial conflicts among existent uses and legal regimes on the sea – the coastal strip along Bosnia and Herzegovina coast** (Neum, 22 km). The region itself is not protected, even with certain endemic species populating the area. **Suljić** identified lack of data and data accessibility as main challenges. In this regard, one of the biggest problems is the poor waste and water management. He informed on the existing Agency for the Adriatic Sea, which offers very limited publicly accessible data.

D. Depellegrin, presented the CP Apulia pilot project **Oil-spill coastal vulnerability assessment**. The test activity will take place along the coasts of the Puglia Region near the protected marine area (Natura 2000 site) of Torre Guaceto in the Province of Brindisi, on a coastline of about 1200 m. This is a particularly sensitive region as a Natura 2000 protected marine area. Objectives of the pilot project are aimed at analyzing the impact of an eventual oil-spill on the biotic and abiotic factors of the test area, checking the propagation and arrival times of the black wave on the coast, and establishing the priorities for intervention (defense and removal of stranded hydrocarbons) according to the vulnerability of the coast.

I. Stojanović, spoke on the objectives of the pilot project **EcAp/MSP in Boka Kotorska Bay, Montenegro**. The Boka Bay, with the coastline of 293 km and the marine surface of 2461 km^2 is one of the most vulnerable zones due to its unique natural and cultural values, but with under present anthropogenic pressures, taking into account both current and planned activities. The aim of the project is to design and test a methodology based on the assessment of the value index of marine ecosystem, with management measures (optimization,

remediation) included, using the integrated approach (WFD/MSFD/EcAp to MSP). This specific testing area was chosen on the basis of data availability. **Stojanović** emphasized the importance of continuity for the sustainability of the project.

Key messages:

1) There is a very good diversity of pilot projects encompassing representation of various environmental issues and problems, and different geographical and administrative scales;
2) The pilots will give good grounds for testing of a number of modules/tools provided in work package T1, and will on the one side provide solutions to the very problems they are dealing with in their testing areas and on the other side will provide important feed back to the Geoportal and its functionalities;
3) Some case studies have even extended their scope as presented in the project Application Form by testing some additional modules;
4) The demonstration project from Boka Kotorska Bay has a solid ground and well-developed methodology that could be upgraded with some of the Geoportal modules (such as partical dispersion, cumulative assessment). As such it can be replicated to the AIR countries especially after being implemented trough GEF Adriatic project including Albania and Montenegro, with its transboundary potential and focus; and
5) Networking with the sister ADRION projects is very useful and should be stimulated in the future.

➢ Closing Remarks and Conclusions of the PORTODIMARE International Conference on ICZM&MSP

Olga Sedioli, the coordinator of PORTODIMARE project (Emilia Romagna region - project Lead Partner), reminded that the project Geoportal of Tools and Data for Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Environment was born within the EUSAIR. In addition, she pointed out that three projects (Harmonia, Portodimare and I-Storms) share the same focal points regarding data, natural and manmade hazards, and strategic planning. All mentioned **contributes to a harmonization, accessibility, interoperability, integration and capacity building in Adriatic Ionian Region**, she concluded.