FishMPABlue 2 project is the follow-up of the FishMPABlue project (July 2014-June 2015) funded by INTERREG MED Programme 2007-2013. During the FishMPABlue project a “regional-based governance toolkit” was developed so as to enhance management and governance effectiveness of small scale fishery (SSF) within and around a set of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). In this respect FishMPABlue project concluded that fish stocks are healthier, fishermen incomes are higher and the social acceptance of management practices is fostered if a set of attributes (key-elements) is present in an MPA (i.e. high MPA enforcement, presence of a management plan, fishermen engagement in MPA management, fishermen representative in the MPA board, and promotion of sustainable fishing). In the light of these findings, the FishMPABlue2 project is engaging 11 Pilot MPAs in 6 Mediterranean countries (Spain, France, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and Greece) with the aim to test the effectiveness of the governance toolkit in generating ecological and socio-economic benefits in MPAs and SSF, respectively as well as in strengthening the social acceptance of management measures by stakeholders. To this end, a “Local Governance Cluster – LGC” composed by MPAs management agency and local small scale fishermen is being created in order to select the set of governance tools to be implemented in each Pilot MPA under the coordination of the MPA managing body and with the consultation of the relevant project partner. At the same time assessment of the
ecological, economic and social status of each MPA and the potential effect of
the selected governance tools will be carried out both before implementing the
governance tools (“before phase”) and after its implementation (“after phase”).
Data gathering will be achieved through the implementation of Underwater
Visual Census (UVC), Baited Underwater Video systems (BUVs) and
Squidpops techniques well as through the recording of SSF landings in the
field and the implementation of questionnaires surveys for the quantification of
the socio-economic parameters. These actions will allow the project
partnership to evaluate and thus improve the “governance toolkit” and to
disseminate it towards other MPAs in the Mediterranean. In parallel a know-
how exchange activity involving the 11 pilot MPAs will be carried out, in order
to capitalize, exchange and transfer the results of the individual
implementation, featured in communication tools (e.g. thematic brochures) and
of several cross-fertilization formats (e.g exchange visits, training courses,
experience exchange conference, dissemination at national level events, online
platform) where the partners will be able to share common challenges and
solutions. The National Marine Park of Zakynthos (NMPZ) (Southern Ionian
Sea, Greece) is the eastern most Mediterranean MPA that participates in the
project as a pilot area while it is actively involved in both data gathering and
governance tools’ implementation and evaluation. Enhanced enforcement of
spatial and temporal restrictions for fisheries, increased engagement of
fishermen in fishery management through participative processes and
promotion of sustainable fishing practices are among the selected governance
tools in the MPA of the NMPZ.


project): the case of the National Marine Park of Zakynthos. Book of Abstracts of 12th Panhellenic Symposium of Oceanography and
What it is all about?

//Footnotes (i.e. references) are written in italics.

FishMPA2 project, coordinated by the authors, aims to provide a set of eco-friendly governance tools for implementing the Natura 2000 network and the EU Directives. The project focuses on improving the governance of MPAs and developing management plans with a strong emphasis on local participation and stakeholder engagement. The project is funded by Interreg MED, a program that supports cross-border, transnational, and interregional cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

The approach

The project aims to create a network of stakeholders and local authorities to oversee the implementation of the project's goals. The project's first phase is the creation of a Local Governance Cluster (LGC) composed of stakeholders and local authorities. The LGC will be responsible for selecting the most suitable governance tools to implement the project's goals. The selected tools will be implemented in each MPA, and the project's success will be evaluated based on the achievement of the project's objectives.

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