

PRESS RELEASE

InnovaMare, last stop of the roadshow on blue technologies in Bari Italian and Croatian partners at the final stages of the project to save the Adriatic

[Bari, March 20, 2023] - The dream of making the Adriatic a more sustainable sea can become true if Italy and Croatia stay in the groove traced by InnovaMare, the EU strategic project for cross-border cooperation which is close to its endpoint after more than two years of activities. This is the hope of the partners from the two countries who will meet again in Bari to showcase the main results reached out in the framework of **InnovaMare**: newly developed technologies and effective research methodologies for the Blue Economy sector.

The final leg of the roadshow which has involved Dubrovnik, Venice and Rijeka in recent months, is organized by **ARTI**, Regional Agency for Technology and Innovation of Puglia, and will include two days of workshops, demonstration activities and visits to some regional realities of excellence. The event, ARTI said, will mainly focus on the promotion of networking around the new-born **Digital Innovation Hub** and on open sea demonstrations of the technologies created for marine safeguards.

On **March 22**, from 9. 00 a.m. at the Bari University Sports Center, will be held a thematic workshop on "Cooperation, Blue technologies and smart solutions for a sustainable Adriatic Sea". It will be followed by hands-on demos of two robotic solutions developed by CNR-National Research Council and University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering, as partners of the project. Tests will involve, in particular, **SWAMP**, an Autonomous Surface Vehicle (Asv) i.e. the lightweight mini-catamaran for sea monitoring in ports and river basins, and the Smart **Multifunctional Buoy**, a robot for measuring, managing and storing data recorded at sea. These two different robotic solutions were designed to work in an integrated way to maximize results in the fight against maritime pollution. They will be both tested, for their first time in the Apulian sea, to show to the public how they can effectively work together. Researchers point out that "successful tests carried out during the project showcased these systems are effective both in cooperative scenarios and in particularly risky environments", such as lagoon waters and polluted waterways.

On **March 23**, partners and project's stakeholders will visit the **Laboratory of Coastal Engineering (LIC)** of the Polytechnic University of Bari, a national excellence for its state-of-the-art instrumentation applied to coastal dynamics modelling and wave motion detection. They will then continue the tour to the Monopoli-based company **AS Labruna**, a leading Italian manufacturer of "green," electric and hybrid-powered engines for the marine industry.

Submarine robotics will play a strategic role in protecting the seas, both because of its low cost and because it can operate effectively. Developing innovation for the Blue Economy by consolidating the virtuous ecosystem created with InnovaMare is in fact the mission of the **Digital Innovation Hub (DIH)**, the

hub for the development of submarine robotics created last February by signing a Memorandum of Understanding, another concrete confirmation of effective cooperation for the sustainability of the sea.

Area Comunicazione e promozione

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