

**Project Title:**  
**Adriatic Sensitive Areas Protection – mechanism (ASAP)**

**Start date:** 1st September 2024

**End date:** 28th February 2027

**Consortium partners**

- Central European Initiative Executive Secretariat – CEI (Italy), Lead Partner
- National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics - OGS (Italy)
- University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transport – UL FPP (Slovenia)
- Adriatic Training and Research Centre - ATRAC (Croatia)
- Republic of Slovenia, Ministry of infrastructure, Slovenian Maritime Administration – SMA (Slovenia)
- Ministry of the Sea, Transport, and Infrastructure – MSTI (Croatia)
- Faculty of Traffic and Communications, University of Sarajevo, FSK-UNSA (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy – MIE (Albania)
- NGO Our Action (Montenegro)

**Associated partners**

- General Maritime Directorate (Albania)
- Institute for Environmental Protection and Research - ISPRA (Italy)
- Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea – REMPEC (Malta)
- Administration for Maritime Safety and Port Management (Montenegro)
- Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief - ACPDR (Slovenia)
- Municipality of Izola (Interreg ADRION EUSAIR Facility Point) (Slovenia)
- Slovenian Environment Agency (Slovenia)

**Project Summary**

The Adriatic is a semi-enclosed sea, characterized by unique environmental and cultural heritage, but also by important economic activities. It is also the waterway access to the heart of Europe, thus affected by heavy maritime traffic. Despite high international standards of navigation, there is the risk of accidents at sea resulting in pollution with oil or other pollutants. In marine environments pollution does not know any border: mutual support and transnational coordinated response at sea are crucial to save the environment, to protect the citizens and to uphold local and national economy from the effects of pollution.

Based on the experience acquired in the North Adriatic, the Adriatic Sensitive Areas Protection – mechanism (ASAP) project aims at transferring knowledge and best

practices from that area to the whole Adriatic basin in order to strengthen maritime protection from the effects of the spill-over of pollutants, especially in case of big-scale accidents at sea that cannot be managed by a single Country and need to be faced at joint transnational level.

ASAP combines environmental risk assessment and analysis of available and missing anti-pollution resources, with preparedness, technical capacities and response procedures in all six Adriatic Countries involved (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia): common intervention rules, i.e., the Standard Operating Procedures, will be designed for allowing joint response, with a strong focus on easing transnational communications in case of accidents. Operators and first responders of target IPA partner countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro) will be involved in a training path, so to develop the same skills and to align their knowledge with the northern Adriatic partners. Common training classes will be structured, involving subjects from Croatia, Italy and Slovenia, in order to reinforce the transnational interoperability of responders during accidental maritime pollution. Three exercises will be organized to test this mechanism in North Adriatic, South Adriatic and in Central Adriatic. At the end of the project, a road map for setting up a Permanent Coordination Platform (PCP) will be finalised and a structured intervention mechanism promoted.

### **Budget**

Total: 1.413.387,70 euros

EU Interreg funds: 1.201.379,54 euros

Other public contribution: 212.008,16 euros

The project is co-funded by the European Union through the IPA ADRION Programme - The IPA ADRION Programme is a European transnational cooperation programme that invests in regional innovation systems, cultural and natural heritage protection, environmental resilience, sustainable transport and capacity building. By bringing together 10 Partner States across the Adriatic-Ionian region, IPA ADRION fosters European integration and acts as policy driver for the benefit of more than 70 million people. IPA ADRION supports the implementation of the macro-regional strategy EUSAIR, especially through the embedding of EUSAIR flagships and specific strategic projects.

ASAP was financed in the framework of the Interreg IPA Adrion 2021-2027 call.