

Project Title:

CEI support to Training and Research to Unlock and Enhance the potential of sustainable BLUE Economy for regional cooperation and EU integration TRUE BLUE

Start date: 1st January 2024

End date: 31st December 2025

Consortium

Know-how providers:

- National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics - OGS (Italy)
Project leader and applicant
- Euro-Mediterranean University - EMUNI (Slovenia)
- Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries - IOR (Croatia)

Know how beneficiaries

- University of Sarajevo - UNSA (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- University of Montenegro - UoM (Montenegro)
- Institute for Sustainable Development, Environment and Tourism - InSET (Albania)

Project Summary

The TRUE BLUE project, led by the National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics - OGS, aims to further science diplomacy through capacity building activities to transfer knowledge to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Albania to support their advancement towards EU integration, promoting regional cooperation. The actions of the project respond to the common and specific needs of these countries in terms of know-how transfer on sustainable blue economy, a field in which Italy, Croatia and Slovenia demonstrate strong-rooted experience. In order to achieve the multiplier effect, the TRUE BLUE project will organize a training of trainers course, implemented by OGS, EMUNI, and IOR, to upskill key public administration officials that are in the position to transfer knowledge to their peers, boosting institutional capacity of their countries to effectively respond to the current challenges of the green transition, focusing on the main EU policies and strategies to achieve sustainable blue economy.

In order to share good practices and plan joint activities at regional level, the project will organize four thematic workshops and networking sessions, implemented by the project coordinator in close collaboration with the know-how beneficiaries: UNSA, UoM and InSET. This activity will facilitate cooperation between different stakeholders within and among countries, with a focus on involving all actors of

research and academia, industry, government and civil society (Quadruple Helix approach).

The project activities will facilitate the establishment of a blue community of officials of public administrations in the beneficiary countries, who will be able to join forces and work together also after the project completion.

The partners of the TRUE BLUE project will benefit from the results of their previous collaborations, capitalizing on present and past joint projects.

Budget

Total: 80.000 euros

CEI grant: 50%

OGS budget: 50%

The project is co-financed by the Central European Initiative through the Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP), which is an instrument supporting projects and programmes focused on the transfer of know-how and best practices from EU to non-EU CEI Member States. By co-financing capacity building and technical assistance projects, the KEP offers grants to institutions willing to share their experience with their partners, thus helping non-members to advance on their path towards EU standards and policies. The KEP operates through calls for proposals with funding made available by Italy through the CEI Fund at the EBRD.

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OGS National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics

