



Blue and green corridors: implementation of TSG 3 EUSAIR flagships, with Interreg IPA ADRION

EUSAIR Pillar 3

15 May 2024, Šibenik XI



the ASOSCOP example – how EU funds can provide support to flagship projects

From the North to the whole Adriatic
Sea



*Anna Marconato – Central European
Initiative Executive Secretariat*



Step 1: NAMIRS

North Adriatic Maritime Incident Response System

Duration: 24 months (March 2022 - February 2024)

Budget: 950 397.54 €

Co-financed by: European Commission, DG ECHO

Call: UCPM-2021-PP

Topic: UCPM-2021-PP-MARIPOL



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The challenge

Accidental marine pollution, in particular deriving from oil spills, represents a dangerous environmental risk, calling for the urgent deployment of integrated and coordinated mechanisms and management plans for better preparedness and a more efficient joint response

Major oil spills require international cooperation



AVD Aerial Video Direct



GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

- ▶ **North Adriatic** is a **semi-closed basin** where three countries (Croatia, Italy and Slovenia) share a marine surface of 550 sq.km, approximately one third of the whole Adriatic. The spill over of pollutants and the proximity of densely populated shores can cause severe damages to the marine ecosystem and the economic activities
- ▶ Rich in **biodiversity**, it hosts a broad network of NATURA 2000 sites, marine protected areas, reserves, and national parks
- ▶ One of the most important **European destinations for seaside tourism**
- ▶ Another sector of utmost relevance for the territories involved is represented by **fishery & aquaculture**
- ▶ **Heavy maritime traffic** (tankers, container ships, ferries, cruisers, fishing fleet, leisure boats, etc)



BACKGROUND

- ▶ the “**Agreement on the Sub-Regional Contingency Plan for prevention of, preparedness for and response to major marine pollution incidents in the Adriatic Sea**” was signed by Croatia, Italy and Slovenia in **2005**, without entering into force due to uncompleted ratification process. In 2021, the three sides reconfirmed their commitment to the protection of the Adriatic Sea and to **intensifying their cooperation** in this regard
- ▶ the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR), and with the activities under Pillar 3 – Environmental Quality (in particular, flagship project F1 - Development and implementation of Adriatic-Ionian Sub/regional Oil spill contingency plan **ASOSCOPI**)
- ▶ the mandate of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea – **REMPEC** “to contribute to preventing and reducing pollution from ships and combating pollution in case of emergency”.
- ▶ the previous trilateral experience of the North Adriatic Maritime Incident Response Group (**NAMIRG**)

PARTNERS

Coordinator: Central European Initiative-Executive Secretariat

Beneficiaries:

Italian General Command of the Port Authorities - Coast Guard

Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia

Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief

Adriatic Training and Research Centre for Accidental Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response (ATRAC, Croatia)

University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transport Portorož

National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics (OGS)



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DELIVERED

- ▶ **Environmental Risk Assessment in Northern Adriatic** (with identification of sensitive areas)
- ▶ **Training classes** (to first line responders on anti-pollution, oil-spill simulator, maritime English, on shore clean-up)
- ▶ **Development of joint Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**
- ▶ **Full scale exercise at sea**
- ▶ **Guidelines for the revision and update of the Adriatic Contingency Plan**



ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT

$$\text{RISK} = \text{HAZARD} * \text{EXPOSURE} * \text{VULNERABILITY}$$

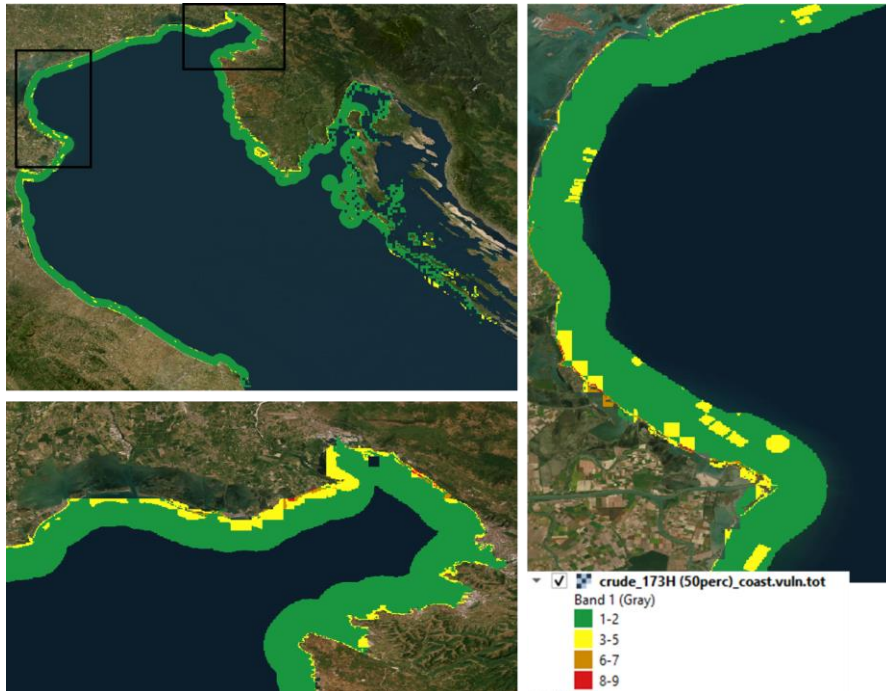
Locations of possible incidents, type and quantity of oil released

Oil spill simulations: drifting, dispersal, stranding, weathering

Geomorphology
Environment
Society, economics

Combining info from oil spill simulations and vulnerability maps

MAPS OF RISK ASSESSMENT TO OIL SPILLS IN THE North Adriatic Sea



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- ▶ A set of **Standard Operating Procedures** has been elaborated in order to ensure improved communication and enhanced operational coordination. This document includes specific measures and instructions to first responders engaged in a potential coordinated anti-pollution action at transnational level.
- ▶ The SOPs are based on the agreed but not ratified “Agreement on the Sub-Regional Contingency Plan for the Prevention and Preparedness for Response to Marine Pollution Incidents in the Adriatic Sea” - November 2005, between Italy, Slovenia and Croatia.
- ▶ The SOPs aim at identifying these relevant authorities and their respective roles.
- ▶ They also define the steps to take in the event of an oil spill at sea, how to alert the NAMIRS partners, what information is necessary to plan the operations, who will be involved and how the operations should be undertaken.

NAMIRS SOPs

Testing

- ▶ Standard Operating Procedures were tested in an exercise at sea that was conducted in the Gulf of Trieste on 20th November 2023. The exercise was focused on oil-spill response capacity by using naval units from all partners and an aircraft (helicopter) from Italian Coast Guard for the boarding activity.

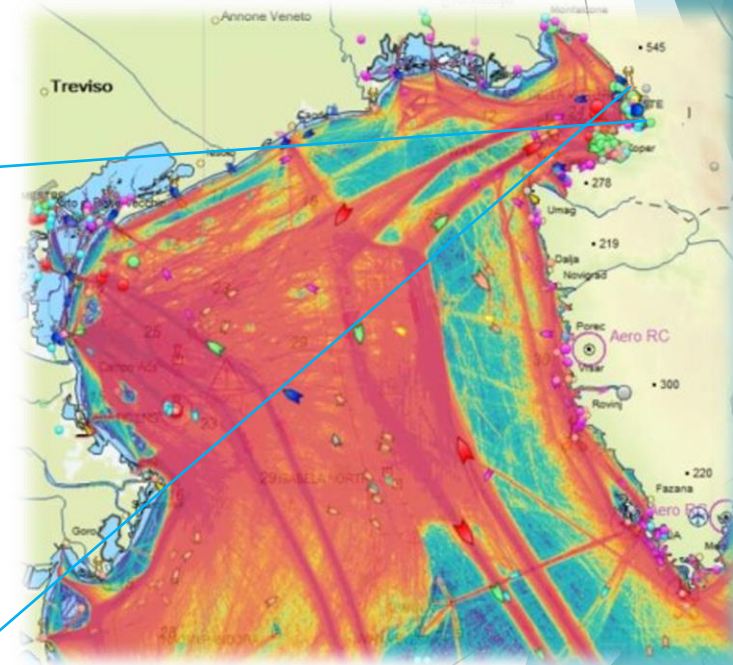
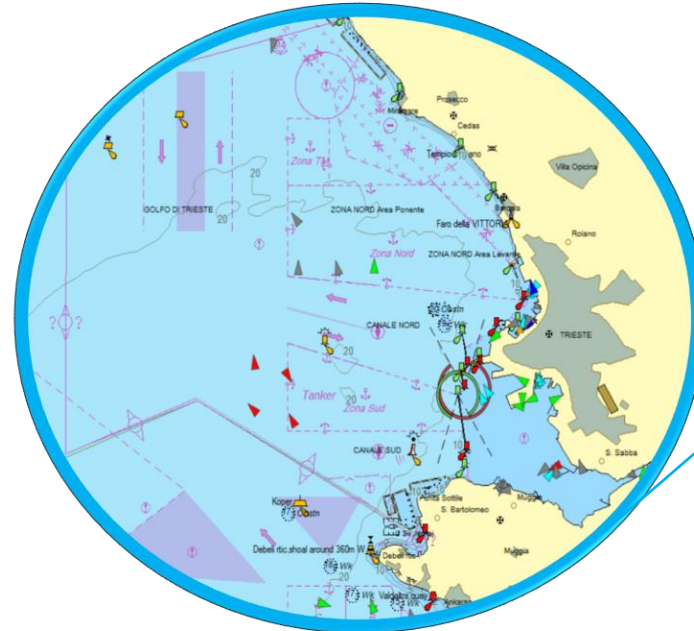
It aimed to test communication and coordination of naval units, resources and equipment available, involved in a potential coordinated anti-pollution action at transnational level.



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SCENARIO

- ▶ Simulated collision between an 85,000 GRT oil tanker in Trieste port anchorage point A6 and a Ro-Ro Vehicle Carrier ship coming from Koper to Monfalcone.
- ▶ The exercise Scenario was designed considering the risk analysis developed within the project, focusing on collision-prone areas in the Northern Adriatic.



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RESPONSE ACTION

1. Activation of anti-pollution local-based resources, involving SAR patrol boats and specialized equipment
2. Local resources not sufficient to manage the pollution
3. Activation of NAMIRS Plan and SOPs - establishment of a crisis unit
4. Assumption of Lead Authority - SOSC role in rec-oil operations by Italy.
5. Request for assistance to Slovenia and Croatia for anti-pollution resources
6. Deployment of all the available resources.
7. De-briefing on criticalities and observations



MAIN NAMIRS RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Renewed and strengthened collaboration among the parties in view of a preparedness, readiness and response in case of possible incident
- ▶ Need for a ready-for-operation mechanism in view of the extreme importance and value of the area
- ▶ **Need to consider the NAMIRS recommendations for the new contingency plan for the whole Adriatic Sea**
- ▶ Establishing a permanent cooperation mechanism among countries and respective operational authorities



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IPA ADRION

Step 2 from NAMIRS to ASOSCOPE

- ▶ Adriatic Sensitive Areas Protection - mechanism ASAP
- ▶ Interreg IPA Adrion 1st Call for proposal
- ▶ Starting in September 2024 - 30 months duration

Transferring knowledge and best practices from the Northern 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)

6 COUNTRIES - 9 PARTNERS

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IPA ADRION



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Central European Initiative-Executive Secretariat

Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia

Republic of Slovenia, Ministry of infrastructure, Slovenian Maritime Administration

Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania

NGO Our Action - Montenegro

Faculty of Traffic and Communications of Sarajevo

Adriatic Training and Research Centre for Accidental Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response (ATRAC, Croatia)

University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transport Portorož

National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics (OGS)

Associated institutions:

Municipality of Izola

General Maritime Directorate of Albania

Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief of Slovenia

Institute for Environmental Protection and Research - ISPRA

Slovenian Environment Agency

Administration for Maritime Safety and Port Management of Montenegro

Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)



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WP1 - MAPPING AND MODELLING

FOCUS GROUPS IN AL-BH-ME
RISK ASSESSMENT
MAPPING OF RESOURCES
HNS SIMULATIONS

Output: Strategy for protecting and safeguarding Adriatic Sensitive Areas



WP2 - TESTING

TRAINING
SOPs
2 EXERCISES (SLOVENIA AND CROATIA - 2026)

Outputs:
Standard Operating Procedures - SOPs
Pilot exercise in North Adriatic
Pilot exercise in South Adriatic



WP3 - SUSTAINABILITY

COOPERATION TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COORDINATION PLATFORM
REGIONAL UPTAKE

Output:
The ASAP network



PROJECT WORK-PLAN

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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