

*Pilot project: removal of marine litter  
from Europe's four regional seas*

## Regional Workshop Report Croatia, 30-31 October



May 2014



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## 1 Introduction

The regional workshop in Rovinj took place on the 30– 31 October 2014.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- bring all partners together;
- present and discuss the particulars of a local marine litter retention project;
- gain official support for the project from:
  - project participants;
  - potential project sponsors;
  - suppliers;
  - policy makers;
- gain a first idea on a project budget and the possibilities of funding;
- achieve a clear view on the main risks in developing a MARELITT project in Rovinj.

In total, 25 persons participated in the workshop – see Annex 2, and the agenda of the workshop is included in Annex 1.

## 2 Day One

The potential project participants and policy makers proposed their views on the Rovinj MARELITT business case.

The regional authority expressed its support for the project and emphasised the importance of Rovinj as a harbour and landing site.

Important contributions were also made by the representatives of fishermen – both professional and recreational. Their presence was of great value to the workshop since it allowed some assumptions to be immediately checked and verified, gave an idea of the main concerns of fishermen, and allowed direct discussion of the best ways to motivate them to participate in the project. Importantly, it was the fishermen in Rovinj who added a most positive element to the workshop discussions – the fact that they already take action by bringing some waste ashore.

### 2.1 General introduction and presentation of the MARELITT business case

The workshop opened with the Director of the Ruđer Bošković Institute, the Vice President of the Rovinj City Council and the Vice President of the region of Istria expressing their delight with, and support for, the MARELITT project.

The opening session stated the importance of the workshop to the different actors and policy levels in Croatia in general, and specifically, the Istrian region. This was followed by a presentation on the MARELITT project explaining the broader framework of the Rovinj marine litter retention project to all workshop participants.

All major project participants and policy-makers were present at the workshop. Some could only partially participate, due to other obligations, e.g. fishing. However, the time they were available was efficiently used to gain as much from their experiences as possible. The only project participants that were not at the workshop were the potential commercial partners. It was felt, however, that this could have hindered the (now very open) communication with e.g. some policy makers. Therefore, potential commercial sponsors will be contacted in the next months.

## 2.2 Policy framework on marine litter in Croatia

The context in which the project will take place was presented by different levels of policy makers and representatives, i.e. the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection Istria region, the City of Rovinj, the Port Authority and waste management company 'Komunalni servis d.o.o., who presented their views on the marine litter problem, its importance to Croatia and the region and the city of Rovinj and the actions that will be taken to deal with it. The city and region expressed their support for the project, and in addition, the Ministry of Environment outlined the guidelines within which the project would possibly gain extra financials support from them.

Currently, the ministry focuses its work on waste management, e.g. all manufacturing companies have to pay a fee, which goes into a fund used to finance environmentally beneficial projects. The MARELITT project could be eligible to apply for this funding. The following aspects should be included when applying:

- An explanation of why marine litter is of importance to the Government on a national level, i.e. the:
  - obligations within the Marine Strategy Framework Directive;
  - costs of marine litter to society, economy and environment.
- Details on how the project offers a solution, including:
  - data collection on waste – data gathered by the marine litter retention (MLR) project could be used to support future regulation;
  - correct disposal of waste.

Different stakeholders expressed their support of the MARELITT project:

- The region could contribute to the project in different ways, e.g.:
  - enabling local cooperation;
  - foreseeing a budget for the project.

The region is developing a new strategy that includes monitoring, and will divide funds to the different Istrian municipalities;
- The City of Rovinj could provide all of the necessary documentation and support;
- The Port Authority could engage in communications with fishermen and waste reception staff;
- The waste management company could acquire all of the necessary means for waste collection, coordination of the waste reception, sorting and monitoring – including recycling, when possible.

Importantly, the following matters will be organised in the next months:

1. Agreement of the partners on their responsibilities/ownership of marine litter and waste (juridical).
2. Meet with the Ministry on budget and application necessities to apply for the Ministry fund.

## 2.3 Discussion with fishermen

The fishermen offered statements on how they understood the project should be developed and informed the workshop participants on the reality of fishing in the northern Adriatic. Some of the main issues are:

- a big difference in experiences with marine litter in Pula and Rovinj. Almost no marine litter was caught with trawlers or standing nets in Pula, possibly because of the mud on the seabed into which litter can sink over time. In general, most litter is caught in the nets when throwing them out over the surface of the water.
- according to the fishermen, the expected amounts of collected litter varies greatly, e.g:
  - Pula: less than 1 bag/day;
  - Rovinj: 1 to 2 bags/ day.
- litter tends to collect around other obstacles;
- ferry routes tend to have more litter in their vicinity, due to the increased numbers of journeys and passengers;
- most litter is found/caught when there is a south-westerly wind – when almost no fishing is undertaken and it partly washes up on shore, or is caught later in the fishing nets.

It became clear that it would be beneficial to start a marine litter retention project before it would become a legal obligation to the fishermen – thereby offering the possibility to make this a positive story for the fishermen, instead of being perceived as having to comply with another obligation. Other suggestions raised, in order to motivate the participation of fishermen are:

- ‘flags’ awarded to participating vessels as a visible symbol that recognises fishermen for their efforts;
- a charity of which the fishermen can claim ownership, e.g. ‘Recycling for Charity’;
- convenient placement of containers or waste collectors on the vessels;
- handing-out fishing equipment, e.g. boots, as implemented in the DeFishGear project.

There are two important ports in Rovinj: 1) the main port for larger boats and the main landing site for fish and, 2) a mixed port for smaller boats – local professional fishermen and recreational fishermen. The smaller port is in the tourist area of Rovinj and is a heritage site – making it difficult to define a suitable site for the waste container. However, the following suggestions were made:

- collection of waste at the smaller port, by the person responsible for cleaning the harbour in the morning, i.e. this person would uplift and take the collected litter from the boats to the waste transport truck which would immediately remove the waste from the port;
- having a closed container at the main landing site which is of less heritage and tourist value, instead of the smaller port;
- a three-month testing period with containers in several places, to see which place is the most convenient for fishermen – without having a negative impact on tourism.

## 2.4 Scientific background and related research projects

This session, presented by the Centre for Marine research (CMR), DeFishGear Project and the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries – a DeFishGear partner in Croatia, from Split, gave in-depth background information on the scientific research being conducted in the area, on the topic of marine litter and experiences with ports and fishermen.

The DeFishGear project is an example of a derelict fishing-gear-inspired project in which marine litter issues form the main objectives. The representatives of DeFishGear discussed their methodology and budget experiences, to date, and offered to share their results and data from the project as they further develop in the next 1.5 years.

The presentation of the Italian MARELITT team was moved to the next day to have more time to discuss the project with the fishermen, thus helping to achieve the objectives of the workshop.

### **3 Day Two**

The day started with a presentation of the work done by Zelena Istra, the local environmental NGO and the Italian MARELITT business case, including work previously done by the Italian Research Centre. This day was mainly used to discuss the next steps and, in particular, address questions of the Rovinj business case. The workshop was concluded by the Centre for Marine Research.

#### **3.1 Awareness raising**

NGO Zelena Istra provided a good overview of their relevant projects – which often have a focus on raising the awareness of children and civilians to environmental issues. They have organised many interactive events with children, i.e. workshops for both schools and tourists, and have broad experience in setting-up communication campaigns. An example was an awareness-raising campaign to decrease the use of plastic bags. In this case, they cooperated with a well-known and highly-valued designer to create organic cotton bags to be used instead of plastic bags.

This NGOs participation in the project will make it possible to have a broader awareness-raising campaign that includes children, tourists and fishermen. Several ideas suggested for the campaign were:

- a round-table discussion with fishermen during the next year;
- arranging meetings between children and fishermen – to allow fishermen to directly explain the project to children;
- posters and flyers with fishermen's photos as the main characters;
- LCD-screens in three different places in the city of Rovinj to display information on the amount of litter collected – similar to energy displays currently being shown in the city;
- a dedicated website.

#### **3.2 MARELITT Italy**

The representative from the Italian MARELITT business case presented the results from a previous marine litter research project, indicating where most of the litter was found and showing how geodata from fishing vessels can aid research. The presentation brought many refreshing ideas to the workshop, e.g. one of the main ideas explored in this session was to look for cooperation and regional best practices, and possibly also including Spain, France and Montenegro in future MLR projects.

#### **3.3 Discussion on the business case and conclusion of the workshop**

The CMR concluded the workshop by giving an overview of the decisions on the project, the main risks to the project, and how to alleviate those risks. They also presented a project timeline for the next year, highlighting the next steps.

### **4 Conclusions and actions**

Workshop participants agreed on the following for the preparatory phase of the proposed project:

- a three-month **testing period** at the start of the project to make clear:
  - the best place to put containers;
  - whether or not the collection of waste from the boats by an employee of the waste management company works for the fishermen;
  - which big bags to use for minimum smell and dirt at the quay;
  - whether or not separate monitoring of waste quantity by the waste management company and the CMR gives different results. This should determine how monitoring can best be organised for the entire duration of the project.
- Predicted time plan:
  - Feb. 2015:
    - contact is established with possible commercial partners, e.g. oil companies, Mirna, tobacco factories, etc., and commitment statements are received;
    - discussions with DeFishGear project on ways of cooperation are explored and decided upon;
    - a draft version of the MLR project is ready, including the definitive focus groups of the awareness-raising campaign and its main components;
    - decisions made with the municipality on the placement of containers – respecting the heritage and tourism value of the area.
  - June 2015:
    - monitoring protocol is set in accordance with the DeFishGear guidelines and, as such, conforms with EU guidelines;
    - financial data received from the different project partners;
    - an official commitment received from the different project participants, sponsors, etc;
    - project plan finalised;
    - press releases drafted for release;
    - timeline decided for a three-year project period.
  - October 2015: LIFE application handed in.

#### 4.1 Actions

	Who	Action	Due
1.	CMR	Further discussions with all project partners and overall project management/ set-up	Q1/2 2015
2.	CMR	Defining the project budget	Q1/ 2015
3.	Waste Management Company	Provide an overview with expected costs (trucks, working hours, containers, bags, ...) and define what they can deliver for free	Feb 2015
4.	Zelena Istra	Define expected costs of awareness-raising and communication for the project	Q1 2015
5.	Zelena Istra	Set up a rough draft of the main activities with regards to communication and awareness raising- together with CMR and relevant project participants.	Q1 2015
6.	The Chamber	Communication with fishermen	Q1/2 2015

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7.	Port Authority	Provide an overview with expected costs	Feb 2015
8.	The City of Rovinj	Provide a letter of support	Jan 2015
9.	CMR	Write the application for the next LIFE call	Oct 2015

## Annex 1: Workshop agenda



Regionalni MARELITT radni sastanak  
Workshop Regionale MARELITT  
MARELITT Regional Workshop



PILOT PROJECT:  
REMOVAL OF  
MARINE LITTER  
FROM EUROPE'S  
FOUR REGIONAL  
SEAS

### Regionalni MARELITT radni sastanak

30. - 31. listopada 2014., Rovinj - Rovigno  
Hotel Lone, dvorana D4

### Workshop Regionale MARELITT

30 - 31 ottobre 2014, Rovinj - Rovigno  
Hotel Lone, sala D4

### MARELITT Regional Workshop

30<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014, Rovinj - Rovigno  
Hotel Lone, Hall D4



The project is funded by the European Commission (DG Environment) and carried out by MARELITT and its partners: ARCADIS, MEGAFISCA Ltd., IMARES, IULI, RSS Marina, Plymouth University, the Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC), EUCC Mediterranean Centre, the Baltic Environmental Forum and Mare Nostrum. The views expressed in this website do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission. For more information, please contact: [mar@mediterranean.eu](mailto:mar@mediterranean.eu)



Regionalni MARELITT radni sastanak  
Workshop Regionale MARELITT  
MARELITT Regional Workshop



Četvrtak 30. listopada 2014.  
Giovedì 30 ottobre 2014  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014

- 8.00 – 9.00**      **REGISTRACIJA • ISCRIZIONE • REGISTRATION**
- 9.00 – 9.30**      **Dobrodošlica • Saluti di benvenuto • Welcome address**  
 Institutu Ruđer Bošković, Centar za istraživanje mora • Istituto Ruđer Bošković, Centro per la ricerca del mare • Ruđer Bošković Institute, Center for Marine Research  
 Grad Rovinj - Rovigno • Città di Rovinj - Rovigno • City of Rovinj - Rovigno  
 Istarska županija • Regione Istriana • Istria Region
- 9.30 – 9.40**      **Uvod u sastanak / Tour de table sudionika**  
 Apertura lavori / Tour de table dei partecipanti  
 Introduction to the Meeting / Tour de table of participants
- 9.40 – 10.00**      **Projekt MARELITT • Progetto MARELITT • MARELITT Project**  
 Linde Verriest; ARCADIS/MILIEU Ltd.
- 10.00 – 10.15**      **EU regulativa i Hrvatska regulativa o morskom otpadu • Regolamenti comunitari e norme croate in materia dei rifiuti marini • EU regulations and Croatian regulations on marine litter**  
 Nela Palarić; Ministarstvo zaštite okoliša i prirode • Ministero della tutela dell' Ambiente e della Natura • Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection
- 10.15 – 10.30**      **Istarska županija • Regione Istriana • Istria Region**  
 Danilo Skoko
- 10.30 – 11.00**      **PAUZA ZA KAVU • PAUSA CAFFÈ • COFFEE BREAK**
- 11.00 – 11.15**      **Grad Rovinj - Rovigno • Città di Rovinj - Rovigno • City of Rovinj - Rovigno**  
 Martina Čekić Hek
- 11.15 – 11.30**      **Lučka uprava Rovinj - Rovigno • Autorità portuale Rovinj - Rovigno • The Port Authority of Rovinj - Rovigno**  
 Mag. ing. Donald Schiozzi
- 11.30 – 11.45**      **Komunalni servis d.o.o, Rovinj - Rovigno • Servizio comunale S.r.l. Rovinj - Rovigno • Waste Management Company Ltd., Rovinj - Rovigno**  
 Tanja Mišeta
- 11.45 – 12.00**      **Institut Ruđer Bošković, Centar za istraživanje mora • Istituto Ruđer Bošković, Centro per la ricerca del mare • Ruđer Bošković Institute, Center for marine research**  
 Dr.sc. Robert Precali



Regionalni MARELITT radni sastanak  
Workshop Regionale MARELITT  
MARELITT Regional Workshop



- 12.00 – 12.15 **Projekt DeFishGear • Progetto DeFishGear • DeFishGear Project**  
*Dr.sc. Andrej Kržan; Kemijski Inštitut Ljubljana, Slovenija • Nacionalni institut za kemiju, Slovenija • Istituto nazionale di chimica, Slovenia • National Institute of Chemistry, Slovenia*
- 12.15 – 12.30 **Institut za oceanografiju i ribarstvo • Istituto di Oceanografia e Pesca • Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split**  
*Dr.sc. Pero Tutman*
- 12.30 – 14.00 **RUČAK • PRANZO • LUNCH**
- 14.00 – 15.00 **Susret s predstavnicima profesionalnih ribara • Incontro con i rappresentanti pescatori professionisti • Meeting with the representatives of the professional fishermen**
- 15.00 – 15.15 **Udruga „Zelena Istra” • Associazione “Istria verde” • NGO „Green Istria,”**  
*Irena Burba*
- 15.15 – 15.30 **Ligurijski opservatorij za ribarstvo i okoliš • Osservatorio Ligure Pesca e Ambiente • Ligurian Observatory of Fisheries and Environment**  
*Marco Cassola*
- 15.30 – 16.00 **PAUZA ZA KAVU • PAUSA CAFFÈ • COFFEE BREAK**
- 16.00 – 17.00 **Diskusija i zaključak dana • Dibattito e conclusione della giornata • Discussion and conclusions of the day**

Večera u 20.00 sati, Konoba Kantonon • La cena si terrà alle ore 20.00 nella taverna Kantonon • Dinner at 20 pm, Kantonon Tavern

Petak 31. listopada 2014.  
Venerdì 31 ottobre 2014  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014

- 9.00 – 11.00 **Diskusija: Akcijski plan • Discussione: Piano d'azione • Discussion: Action Plan**
- 11.00 – 11.30 **PAUZA ZA KAVU • PAUSA CAFFÈ • COFFEE BREAK**
- 11.30 – 13.00 **Diskusija: Financijski plan • Discussione: Piano finanziario • Discussion: Financial Plan**
- 13.00 – 13.30 **ZAKLJUČAK • CONCLUSIONE • CONCLUSION**
- 13.30 – 14.30 **RADNI RUČAK • PRANZO DI LAVORO • WORKING LUNCH**

## Annex 2: List of participants

IME	ORGANIZACIJA
1. Mirta Smodlaka Tanković	Institut Ruđer Bošković - Centar za istraživanje mora, Rovinj - Rovigno
2. Martin Pfannkuhen	Institut Ruđer Bošković - Centar za istraživanje mora, Rovinj - Rovigno
3. Daniela Marić Pfannkuhen	Institut Ruđer Bošković - Centar za istraživanje mora, Rovinj - Rovigno
4. Jelena Godrijan	Institut Ruđer Bošković - Centar za istraživanje mora, Rovinj - Rovigno
5. Dr.sc. Robert Precali	Institut Ruđer Bošković - Centar za istraživanje mora, Rovinj - Rovigno
6. Dr.sc. Renato Batel	Institut Ruđer Bošković - Centar za istraživanje mora, Rovinj - Rovigno
7. Linde Vertriest	ARCADIS/MILIEU Ltd., Bruxelles, Belgija
8. Nela Palarić	Ministarstvo zaštite okoliša i prirode
9. Giuseppina Rajko	Istarska županija • Regione Istriana
10. Danilo Skoko	Istarska županija • Regione Istriana
11. Cinzia Russi Ivančić	Grad Rovinj-Rovigno • Città di Rovinj - Rovigno
12. Martina Čekić Hek	Grad Rovinj-Rovigno • Città di Rovinj-Rovigno
13. Robert Lešić	Grad Rovinj-Rovigno • Città di Rovinj-Rovigno
14. Mag.ing. Donal Schiozzi	Lučka uprava Rovinj-Rovigno • Autorità portuale Rovinj-Rovigno
15. Dr.sc. Marko Paliaga	Komunalni servis d.o.o Rovinj-Rovigno • Servizio comunale S.r.l. Rovinj-Rovigno
16. Tanja Mišeta	Komunalni servis d.o.o Rovinj-Rovigno • Servizio comunale S.r.l. Rovinj-Rovigno
17. Dr.sc. Pero Tutman	Institut za oceanografiju i ribarstvo, Split
18. Dr.sc. Andrej Kržan	Nacionalni Institut za kemiju, Ljubljana, Slovenija
19. Andreja Palatinus	Institut za vode Republike Slovenije, Ljubljana, Slovenija
20. Marco Cassola	Osservatorio Ligure Pesca e Ambiente, Genova, Italija
21. Irena Burba	Udruga „Zelena Istra“ o Associazione “Istria verde”
22. Rudija Pavličević	Udruga „Zelena Istra“ o Associazione “Istria verde”
23. Kristijan Zović	Istarska obrtnička komora CEH-a za ribarstvo i akvakultura

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<b>24.</b>	Dejan Aćimov	Ministarstvo poljoprivrede, Uprava ribarstvo
<b>25.</b>	Marin Hlobik	ŠRD Lokva