



ITALY-MALTA

CORALLO+Si

A cross-border network for the responsible use of marine protected areas sites

DATES:

- **Start:** Jan 8, 2023 | **End:** Oct 31, 2023

PARTNERS:

- Consorzio Plemmirio – Lead Partner
- University of Malta
- Environment and Resources Authority
- Heritage Malta
- Ghanjnsielem Local Council
- Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione dell'Ambiente, Sicilia
- Università degli Studi di Palermo

TOTAL BUDGET:

- **€ 1.001.735,74**

UE CONTRIBUTION:

- **€ 843.825,38**

The involvement of local communities in the management of Sicilian and Maltese protected areas contributes to increase the degree of awareness on the need to protect species and preserve their habitats. CORALLO +SI has transferred to new sites and new stakeholders the technologies initially developed by the CORALLO project to increase their value and create a permanent cross-border network for the management of marine protected areas. The project has mainly enhanced instruments based on digital information and communication technologies, and in particular the 3D rooms and the immersive rooms, for access to underwater scenarios in augmented reality that has allowed the transfer to the public of the beauty and biodiversity contents of protected areas, with an edutainment value. The rooms were realised also to allow remote access and use for physically limited users such as disabled, deaf or visually impaired users, thanks to, for example, the use of HD underwater sounds. These innovative activities took place alongside more traditional initiatives such as awareness campaigns for the correct use of protected areas, the realisation of information days on the beaches of the Natura 2000 sites, underwater explorations and seminars on responsible sailing, diving and snorkelling activities. Thanks to the transfer of technologies and know-how, Corallo +Si has capitalised the best results of the CORALLO project, involving a great proportion of the Sicilian and Maltese marine protected areas and harmonising the instruments for the correct use of sites, which can be replicated also in other contexts in the WestMED area.

Marine Protected Areas involved in the project: Ustica, Pantelleria, Lampedusa, Capo Milazzo, Gozo e Comino.

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