

# NETCET achievements: more than a project

*Network for the Conservation of  
Cetaceans and Sea Turtles in the  
Adriatic*



The project is co-funded by the European Union,  
Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.



## Project main data

**Project name:** NETCET – Network for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles in the Adriatic

**Project funded by:** IPA Adriatic CBC Programme

**Priority:** 2 - Natural and Cultural Resources and Risk Prevention – Measure 2.2 Natural and cultural resource management and prevention of natural and technological risks

**Project start:** 01/10/2012

**Duration:** 40 months

**Total Budget:** € 2.593.711,18



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## Partnership

City of Venice (IT) – Lead Beneficiary

- University of Padua (IT)
- City of Pescara (IT)
- Cetacea Foundation (IT)
- Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (IT)
- State Institute for Nature Protection (HR)
- Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation (HR)
- Herpetofauna Albanian Society (AL)
- Association for Protection of Aquatic Wildlife of Albania (AL)
- Institute for Marine Biology (MON)
- University of Primorska (SLO)
- WWF Italy (IT)
- Marine Education Centre Pula (HR)



### Associated

- Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation
- Veneto Region
- Emilia Romagna Region
- Marche Region



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## Challenges

1. **Lack of technical and institutional capacity** in many areas related to conservation measures: training of local actors is needed
2. **Incomplete scientific knowledge** of the institutions involved in conservation actions: networking and cooperation among institutions is needed
3. **Lack of awareness** of threats that may affect long-term survival of C&ST populations: reduction of direct threats is needed
4. **Lack of complete coverage of rehab/emergency centre:** strengthening the rescue centre coverage along the Adriatic coast is needed
5. **Lack of conservation strategies:** definition of common policies and management strategies at transnational level is needed



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## Main objective

To develop **common strategies** for the conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles (C&ST) in the Adriatic **through regional cooperation**.

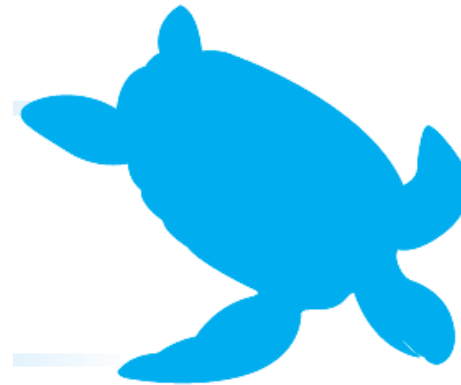


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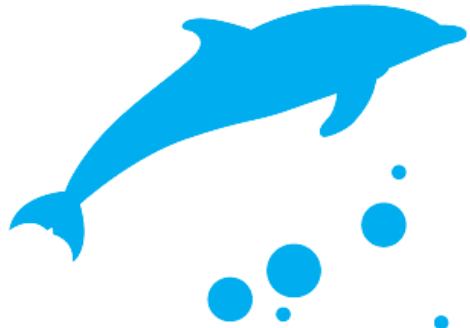


## Specific objectives 1

- **Strengthen institutional capacity for conservation of C&ST** in partner states
- **Enhance cooperation and strengthen networking among all institutions** involved in C&ST
- **Establish long term coordinated monitoring activities** in order to improve knowledge about C&ST population status and understand the main threats posed by human activities







## Specific objectives 2



- **Strengthen technical capacity for the recovery, treatment and rehabilitation of injured/sick/weak cetaceans and sea turtles**
- ➤ **Increase local actors and public awareness among fishermen, boat drivers and school children of the presence and conservation needs of C&ST**
- **Develop common conservation strategies throughout the region and draft/update national action plans**



# Achievements 1

	Objectives	Results
	<b>City network</b> to enhance Adriatic cities role in the conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles	29 cities
	<b>A Technical/Scientific network</b> for the exchange of expertise	30 members
	<b>A common data collection framework on cetaceans and sea turtles</b>  Specific <b>training courses and workshops</b> for the exchange of expertise among partners and organisations	2 databases  2 reference textbooks and 2 protocols for vets, 21 days of training for 64 vets, workshops on setting up centres, on monitoring surveys, 4 courses on stranded C&ST for non professionals
	<b>Creation/improvement of sea turtles rescue centres, in strategic locations.</b> The rescue centres will also be permanent points of expertise	Building of 3 new centres (emergency and rehabilitation) and improvement of the equipment of 13 other existing centres in Italy and Croatia. Creation of rehabilitation pool in Numana.



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## Structures for the Adriatic

### NETCET City Network

The aim is to raise the awareness of the cities on their role in the conservation of the sea turtles and cetaceans.  
See more at:  
[www.netcet.eu/city-network](http://www.netcet.eu/city-network)

### Emergency centre

First aid for injured sea turtles (maximum stay: 48 hours before the transfer to a rescue centre)

### Rehabilitation centre

Assistance for sea turtles in "convalescence phase"



#### LIDO OF VENICE - ITALY

The centre is composed of 3 tanks and a laboratory equipped with veterinary first aid tools. Furthermore an apposite office has been set up to collect data concerning the recovered sea turtles.



#### RICCIONE - ITALY



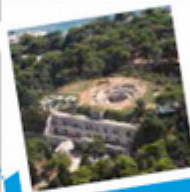
#### NUMANA - ITALY

A protected marine area has been set up to monitor the recovered sea turtles before their release.



#### PESCARA - ITALY

The rehabilitation centre has been improved with a convalescence and isolation area. It is equipped with 15 tanks supported by apposite hydraulic systems.



#### PULA - CROATIA

#### LOSINJ - CROATIA

The Blue World Institute turtle rescue centre is located in the middle of the tourist complex in 'Sunny Bay' Mali Lošinj and has the capacity to host 4 turtles at any one time with operating facilities available for injured animals.



#### PATOK - ALBANIA

The centre is composed of 2 rooms: A laboratory room equipped with veterinary first aid tools and 2 two tanks, A conference room with a capacity of 50 people for the awareness raising lectures.



Emergency or rehabilitation centres set up thanks to the NETCET project

Existing emergency or rehabilitation centres improved thanks to the NETCET project:

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Brac Island (Croatia) | 7 Dubrovnik (Croatia)      |
| 2 Rijeka (Croatia)      | 8 Korcula Island (Croatia) |
| 3 Zadar (Croatia)       | 9 Lošinj (Croatia)         |
| 4 Pag Island (Croatia)  | 10 Krk (Croatia)           |
| 5 Šibenik (Croatia)     | 11 Pula (Croatia)          |
| 6 Split (Croatia)       | 12 Riccione (Italy)        |

NETCET City Network



## Achievements 2



### Objectives

Proposal for the development of an **Adriatic emergency task force** in order to respond to mass stranding and environmental emergencies



**Coordinated monitoring programme** to increase availability of data and improve knowledge relevant for the conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles



**Awareness raising activities targeting fishermen, boat drivers, school children and the general public**



- **Two distinct common strategies for cetaceans and sea turtles** which foresee actions addressing the main threats challenging Adriatic populations

### Results

Developed and put in action during the Vasto mass stranding

Monitoring activities in the Adriatic: 23 sea turtles were tagged and their movements followed through a satellite system, more than 10.000 km boat survey, more than 100 hours of aerial survey

79 meetings with over 800 fishermen, 130 public release events of sea turtles, over 5,500 posters put up in over 97 ports in the Adriatic, 210 lessons for school children with 1,700 educational kits

- 2 booklets and 9 National Action Plans drafts or contributions



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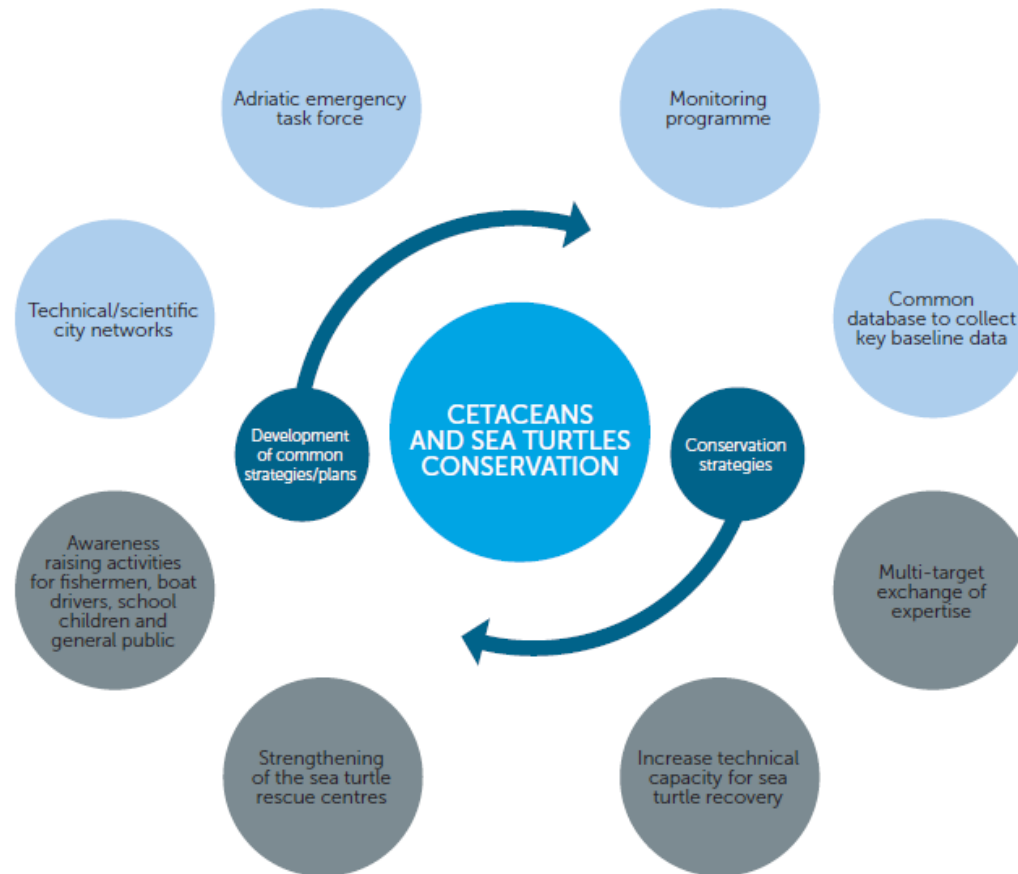
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## Our work method



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## Expected results 1

Shared **standardized scientific knowledge and effective collaboration** between the organisations involved in cetaceans and sea turtles conservation in the Adriatic

greater institutional capacity for the conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles in partner states

**improved knowledge** of Adriatic cetaceans and sea turtles populations, hot-spots and major threats

**increased technical capacity for sea turtle recovery in the Adriatic** and effective treatment of stranded/injured sea turtles in high level structures



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## Expected results 2

**increased coastal communities' awareness of the presence and conservation needs of these species and widespread adoption by fishermen of correct handling procedures,**

**improved conservation and management of cetaceans and sea turtles conservation and their habitats in the Adriatic through effective regional cooperation,**

**a sense of ownership towards and pride in the natural heritage in the Adriatic**

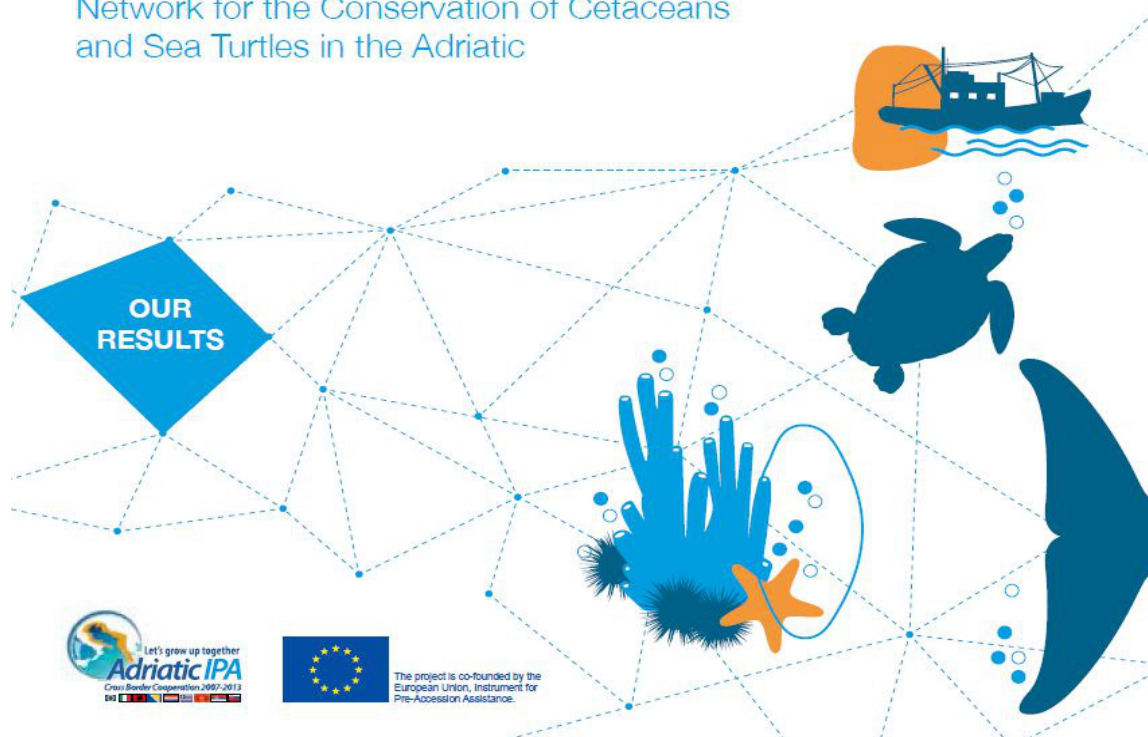


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# netcet

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## NETCET Success

- improve collaboration in the Adriatic
- increase standards and quality of sea turtles and cetaceans conservation
- increase comparability of Adriatic countries action plans between each other and with other countries
- comprehensive: high research quality, long term investments, broad dissemination, involvement of institutions
- contribution to policy and strategic planning in ST and C conservation



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## NETCET Sustainability

- ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (October 2015) and ACCOBAMS Meeting of Party (MOP 6) in November 2016: NETCET side event presented the results and experiences from the NETCET project, as a good example of regional cooperation
- Booklet on conservation strategies
- Emergency and Rehabilitation centres to continue for at least 5 years
- Scientific Network and NETCET City Network will continue
- Database on Sea Turtles will be updated by Emilia-Romagna Region and Cetaceans by University of Padova
- Ownership of results and outputs well defined and clarified
- Web site and Facebook
- Satellite Tags



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## NETCET Conclusions

- Need of road maps for implementation of NAPs,
- Need further development of qualification framework in the Adriatic for dissemination and specific education linked to the strandings, analyses of causes of mortality
- Need to involve conservation institutions in the design and delivery of programmes
- Need to help aligning knowledge and data collection to current needs and foster scientific analysis and strategic implementation
- I call on conservation institutions and decision makers at all levels to continue working on the results of this project and in general on conservation reform.
- I encourage you to use this project as a model and to disseminate the acquired knowledge.



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Thank you for your attention!



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[www.facebook.com/NETCETproject](https://www.facebook.com/NETCETproject)



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