



**Natural
heritage**

**Interreg
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WEBINAR

Legal Instruments and Policies for Natural Heritage Conservation in the Mediterranean Coastal Zone

CONCEPT NOTE

Date and Time: 22 May, 2025 | 10:00 - 13:00 CET

Format: The webinar will be held in an online format

Organisers

- **Organising Partners:** Plan Bleu, Marine Institute, MedCities, IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, Region of Crete, Autonomous Region of Sardinia, and the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development from Montenegro
- **Supporting:** Community4Nature

Framework

The Mediterranean region faces complex and interlinked challenges related to coastal and marine biodiversity conservation, legal governance, and spatial planning. Although a dense framework of international and regional agreements exists to guide conservation efforts, their implementation remains uneven. Fragmentation across governance levels, limited financial and technical resources, and insufficient cross-sectoral collaboration often hinder the effective translation of policy into action on the ground.

To address these challenges, this webinar is framed as a capacity-building activity within the [Interreg Euro-MED Mission for Natural Heritage](#). It specifically targets members of the four Working Groups involved in the Mission, aiming to deepen their understanding of the legal and policy instruments that shape conservation efforts in the Mediterranean coastal zone.

Through a combination of knowledge-sharing and policy dialogue, this event contributes to the broader goal of developing a shared, transnational vision for effective nature and biodiversity protection. It also seeks to empower participants to influence policy processes at both regional and Euro-Mediterranean levels.

Description

The webinar will take place entirely in a plenary format, bringing together all participants in a shared space for learning and exchange. Throughout the session, experts will deliver a comprehensive and accessible overview of the main legal and policy frameworks relevant to natural heritage in the Mediterranean coastal zone. Presentations will cover the key objectives, core provisions, and practical implications of these instruments, alongside an exploration of implementation challenges.

In addition, the webinar will include a focused segment on the upcoming United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC). This segment will inform participants about UNOC's objectives, processes, and



opportunities for representation within the Mission for Natural Heritage community.

Webinar Structure

Time	Agenda item	Description	Speaker(s)
10:00 - 10:10	Welcome and Introduction	Opening remarks: overview of the objectives and structure of the webinar.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marilena Mochianaki Karampatzaki (Region of Crete) - Caterina Praticò (CoNISMa)
10:10 - 11:00	Keynote: Understanding the Policy Process	<p>Presentation of the policy development process at the Euro-Mediterranean level. How policy can be shaped and influenced to support natural heritage conservation.</p> <p>Q&A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tommaso Demozzi (IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy) - Aldo Ravazzi (OECD-EPOC and IFCMA)
11:00 - 11:30	Legal and Political Framework for Conservation	<p>Introduction to the legal frameworks and policy tools available for Mediterranean coastal conservation. Guidance on planning and implementing legal instruments effectively.</p> <p>Q&A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Daniela Addis (Addis Law Firm)
11:30 - 12:00	Linking Legal Instruments with Spatial Governance	Study on the relations between legislative instruments and spatial governance processes: goals, results and applications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emanuela Manca (Autonomus Region of Sardinia)
12:00 - 12:30	The UN Ocean Conference	Overview of the upcoming UN Ocean Conference (UNOC), with a focus on participation opportunities, side event applications, and coordinated presence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan Bleu
12:30 - 12:40	Closing Remarks and Next Steps	Summary of key takeaways and outline of the next steps, including upcoming dates for institutional dialogue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marilena Mochianaki Karampatzaki (Region of Crete)