



# EVENT SUMMARY

## Event title

Natural Heritage Mission's Community of Practice meeting

## Host

IrRADIARE

## Venue

ISG - Instituto Superior de Gestão  
R. Prof. Reinaldo dos Santos 46, 1500-552  
Lisboa

## Date

May 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>  
2026

## Key numbers

**2 days**

Duration

**44**

Organizations

**66**

Participants

**15**

Thematic &  
Strategic Projects

## Goals and Objectives

- Bringing together the members of the Community of Practice: Meeting in person with representatives from the 15 Thematic and Strategic Projects (TPs / SPs), the 2 Governance Projects (GPs), and specific -relevant to 'water crisis' issues- Associated Partners (APs).
- Focusing on those TPs entering a new development phase ("fast lane" - test and transfer projects)
- Exchanging updates on the progress of the projects' respective activities.
- Prioritizing the amplification room and the reuse of project results.
- Give the floor to the projects from Calls 4 and 5, which have recently joined our Mission, and reflection on possible opportunities offered by the amplification room.
- Launching the 2026 Solve The Challenge campaign on Water Crisis.
- Launching two new clusters.
- Building on joint policy messages.



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## Main Outcomes

- Start of a new phase for the community focused on amplification, capitalization, and transfer of project results.
- Presentation of reuse methodologies, tools, and knowledge developed during the last period.
- A strong commitment of the TPs/SPs to climate resilience, protection of biodiversity, sustainable management of coastal, marine and forested areas, and water resources use.
- New thematic clusters on 'Water' and on 'Marine Protected Areas in Montenegro' launched to support cooperation, advocacy, and operational actions.
- A mentorship-structured methodology for transferring solutions from experienced projects (givers) to adopting organizations (takers).
- Reinforcement of the importance of peer review, clustering, and collaborative learning in improving project quality and transferability.
- Video recordings for the MOOC on Nature Restoration.

## Remarks

- Involvement of 15 out of 19 TPs & SPs (in total - ongoing and closed ones) in the event and all the activities and discussions.
- Involvement of 7 Portuguese (local) stakeholders/organisations
- Clusters are practical and result-oriented mechanisms rather than discussion-only platforms.
- Projects emphasized the value of combining scientific knowledge, digital tools, policy frameworks, and local experience.
- Stakeholder engagement remains a challenge, particularly when policy influence or operational outcomes are uncertain.

## Key Messages

- Setting the foundation for transferring and mentorship programmes.
- Promoting strong relationships and building clusters and networks that bridge policy and practice.
- Collaboration, peer learning, and cross-project synergies are essential to increase the sustainability of project outcomes.
- Communication is more effective when working face-to-face.



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## Next Steps

### **Framework and timeline of the “2026 - Solve the Challenge Campaign”**

- May to November 2026 – showcasing of already developed contents + interviews which took place during the Community of Practice meeting
- Further follow up with TPs/SPs to cocreate contents and offline activities
- November 2026 – Big closure of the campaign in Marseille with an exposition organised within the frame of the Interreg Euro-MED Programme’s Mid-term event

### **Work towards the 2026 Policy Recommendations on Water**

- 1st 2026 Natural Heritage Mission’s Thematic Webinar - “Water Challenges and Opportunities in the Mediterranean” - May 27th
- Work within the Water cluster - online meetings - dates TBC
- 2nd 2026 Natural Heritage Mission’s Thematic Webinar - on Water topics - date TBC
- Natural Heritage Mission’s Institutional Dialogue event in 2026, back-to-back with the Interreg Euro-MED Programme’s Mid-term event - Marseille, France - November

### **Collaboration in organising the Interreg Euro-MED Programme’s Mid-term event 2026**

- Several meetings with the JS and the involved TPs/SPs are foreseen in the next months and till November in order to create the appropriate content

### **Continuation of the joint communication group work**

- Bimonthly meetings will continue to take place from July till the next Community of Practice meeting in 2027



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Article in the website and photos:

[News - Natural Heritage Mission's website](#)





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Agenda - 1st Day:

## AGENDA | 12.05.2026

Time	Topic
09:00 – 09:30 Registration	
9:30 – 10:00	<b>Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome &amp; Introduction of the agenda - Lead Partners: Caterina Praticò, CoNISMa, and Marilena Mochianaki Karampatzaki, Region of Crete</li><li>• Welcome speech by the host: Teresa Damásio, ISG Board Member</li><li>• Welcome speech by the Interreg Euro-MED Programme's Joint Secretariat: Francesca Marcato and Christoph Maier</li></ul>
10:15 – 11:35	<b>NHM Community is evolving: Amplifying results</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Roundtable 1: Transferring results at the end of the journey</li><li>• Roundtable 2: Fast Lane projects: New adventures within the community</li><li>• Roundtable 3: Work in progress: Amplification Room's dynamics for the Projects of Call 4 and 5</li></ul>
11:35 – 12:00 Coffee break	



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## Agenda – 1st Day:

12:00 – 13:00	<p><b>NHM Community is engaged: spotlight on Clusters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of clusters' methodology</li> <li>• Results of ongoing clusters</li> <li>• Promotion of new clusters + Discussion</li> </ul>
<b>13:00 – 14:00 Lunch</b>	
14:00 – 15:45	<p><b>NHM Community is raising awareness: Communication Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Special launch of the #SOLVETHECHALLENGE2026 campaign, followed by a debate in which everyone is asked to contribute! (45 min)</i></li> <li>- <i>Building together the calendar of opportunities to promote the campaign (20 min)</i></li> <li>- <i>Preparation of the Exhibition for the Programme's Mid-term event, as a closure of the campaign (40 min)</i></li> </ul>
<b>15:45 – 16:00 Coffee break</b>	
<b>16:00 - 17:00 Transfer to the venue of the EMD in My Country</b>	
17:00 – 18:00	<b>European Maritime Day in My Country / Launch of the 2026 'Solve the Challenge' campaign</b>
20:00 – 21:30	<b>Social event</b>



# EVENT SUMMARY

Agenda - 2nd Day:

## AGENDA | 13.05.2026

Time	Topic
09:00 – 09:30 Registration	
09:30 - 11:20	<b>NHM Community is promoting change: Advocacy priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of our policy work</li><li>• Thematic Projects' advocacy needs assessment</li></ul>
11:20 – 11:40 Coffee break	
11:40 - 13:00	<b>NHM Community is transferring results: the Mentorship programme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Challenges</li><li>• Solutions</li><li>• Policy</li><li>• Adoption</li></ul>
13:00 – 14:00 Networking lunch	
14:00 – 15:30	<b>NHM Community is active: Working sessions and tailored meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Academy/production material (shooting of interviews)</li><li>• Engagement of external stakeholders (based on mentorship interest)</li><li>• Activities co-creation with TPs (1. Cluster on water, 2. Cluster MPAs in Montenegro, 3. Territorial advocacy)</li></ul>
15.30 - 16.00	<b>Wrap up and next steps</b>