

*4th and 5th of October 2007, Cankarjev dom, Ljubljana***Joint Partner Search Seminar:*****Alpine Space, Central Europe, South East Europe and Mediterranean Programmes*****Project idea you would like to present at the Seminar**

You have developed a project idea, you want to share it and find partners to propose a project. With the occasion of a partner search seminar, there is a possibility to present the idea and to express a need for partners to join in the project.

The event's intention is to bring together potential project partners from four Objective 3 - transnational territorial cooperation programmes (2007–2013): Mediterranean, Alpine Space, Central Europe and South East European Space, so it is possible to present the project ideas that you intend to implement in any of the four mentioned projects.

After the presentations of project ideas, four thematic workshops are organised in order to facilitate contact between project idea owner and potential project partners, to further develop the idea and to identify any open issues or questions that need an answer from the programme bodies representatives that attend the seminar in the plenary session, which follows the workshops.

If you have a project idea that you want to present, we are asking you to fulfil the form below and send it until the 20th of September 2007 to E-mail: tomaz.miklavcic1@gov.si and in copy to dejan.cigale@ff.uni-lj.si.

Project idea title:	Mediterranean initiative GUIDing the promotion of integrated and sustainable Local Aquaculture for the preservation and reconstitution of eel stocks (ANGUILLA)
Priority:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Innovation and entrepreneurship	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protection and improvement of the environment	
<input type="checkbox"/> Improvement of the accessibility and mobility	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable urban development	

Contact details	
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Transnational

Interregional

Crossborder

Short description of the project idea:

The European eel stock (*Anguilla anguilla*) is undergoing a dramatic decline, since eel population has decreased more than 90% in European and especially Mediterranean distribution areas during last ten years. According to the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES), the eel stocks are outside the biologic limits that guarantee their survival and the present fishing rhythms are no more sustainable. In 2003 the European Commission has affirmed the necessity to urgently define an action plan for the restoration of European eel population and to support the basic research activity. So the Commission declares that the success of the stock's reconstitution measures depends on the close cooperation among the Countries on the Mediterranean coasts and on the coherence of the actions taken at regional and local level.

This project aims at coping with the environmental emergency at European level, linked to the impoverishment of eel stocks, through the realization of specific research actions, through experimentation and application, with the involvement of all public and private actors with every right interested in the conservation of the Mediterranean environment. The project points to developing the following themes in a transnational dimension:

WP1. Ecological and environmental characterization. The first WP aims at defining the environmental parameters and the ecological factors linked to the evolution of Mediterranean dynamics of populations, with particular reference to those areas which have a high ecologic value in the species' reproduction cycle, such as the lagoons. The WP includes two main actions related to:

1. environmental monitoring including specific activities of chemical-physic and biological analyses;
2. dynamic of population analyses based on wide samples collected in a large period of time.

WP2. Resource management. Considering that a system, shared at Mediterranean level, necessarily requires coherence between the need of protecting the sea environment and the need of providing a sustainable alternative to the economic activities linked to the eel production, the WP aims at defining innovative methodologies able to promote wide fulfilment of sustainable and integrated management of resources and fishery and aquiculture activities. In particular, the WP foresees the realization of the following actions:

1. sustainable aquaculture which will allow to increase the efficiency of the whole breeding process through the definition of proper methodologies for the weaning, breeding and maintenance of the juvenile phases post insemination;
2. responsible reconstitution of eels stocks with the actuation of specific initiatives able to increase the populations of eels of the Mediterranean sea in respect of the genetic structure of wild populations;
3. reproduction of eels with the definition of referring criteria for the *Anguilla anguilla* species' reproduction under controlled conditions for possible further applications both for sustainable aquaculture and repopulation initiatives.

WP3. Products' valorisation. The resources sustainable management can be done only through an aware involvement of fishing and aquiculture operators in the processes management. Considering that these operators refer essentially to the small handicraft fishery dimension, in which the main territorial defence function is identified, the project points to prepare a set of initiatives aimed at valorising the quality typical local productions, so to create an economic shuttlecock able to involve the operators in the resources management in a enduring way. The actions will interest also the finished traditional ichthyic products.

WP4. Awareness raising e dissemination. The WP foresees the realization of initiatives aimed at informing both the operators and the public on the general necessity to preserve the sea environmental and the eel stocks, and on the possibility of making sustainable fishery and aquiculture activities. Furthermore the WP proposes to promote the application of experiences done in the project to other territorial areas.

WP5. Project management. The WP includes the management of technical, financial and reporting activities required by the project.

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Main objectives:

To encourage the establishment of a common transnational knowledge and to set up a joint action plan for the protection of eel stocks through the involvement of all public and private actors involved in the management of sea resources, according to a bottom up approach.

Envisaged Outcomes:

- A deep knowledge of the environmental and ecologic parameters affecting the dynamics of population of eel stocks, according to a shared procedure applicable to the whole Mediterranean scenario.
- A practical set of results in the field of the innovative management of aquaculture and fishing of eel, providing clear and ready-to-use protocols for eel reproduction and breeding to be applied by fish farmers.
- An added value for the products coming from sustainable and integrated eel aquaculture, giving more opportunities of local communities' development, with particular reference to those micro and small enterprises which play a fundamental role in environment protection through the defence of the territory.
- An increased awareness of the operators and the public opinion about the needing to save the sea environment and the eel stocks.

Existing partners (if any):

- Emilia-Romagna Region
- ARPA Emilia-Romagna
- University of Bologna
- ICRAM
- Other Regional authorities from Italy

Partners searched for:

Please indicate: type of the institution, main field of activity, country of a partner

Partners are searched in the MED area:

- National, regional and local authorities involved in the management of ichthyic resources
- Scientific institutions in the fields of environment and biology
- Other public and private bodies

