

# Ecosee/a



# News

## THE ECOSEE/A PROJECT: A NEW ALLY FOR THE SEA

*The European Commission has financed the ECOSEE/A project in the framework of the program "Guardians of the Sea"*

The FLAG "MARCHE SUD" is pleased to communicate the start of the project, opening the series of newsletters aimed to inform the citizens on the progress status of the project.

The Ecosee/a project has been financed by the EU Commission – Directorate Maritime affairs and fisheries, in the framework of the program "Guardians of the Sea" MARE/2013/09.

It is a project aimed to improve the balance between the EU fishing fleet and the resources available for the fishing activities, through the conversion of a fishing vessel in a boat for maritime monitoring and tourism activities.

The European Commission judged Ecosee/a as one of the 4 projects worthy to receive fundings, considering that the project has merged all the aims of the Call. Ecosee/a foreseen marine monitoring activities along the Central Adriatic Sea and recreational and sustainable activities for tourists in Marine Protected Areas.

The project duration is 12 months. The activities started on May, 14th 2014 and will end on May, 13th 2015. The total budget is € 466.618 and the EU co-financing is € 373.294.

*Sergio Trevisani - Project manager*



### OBJECTIVES

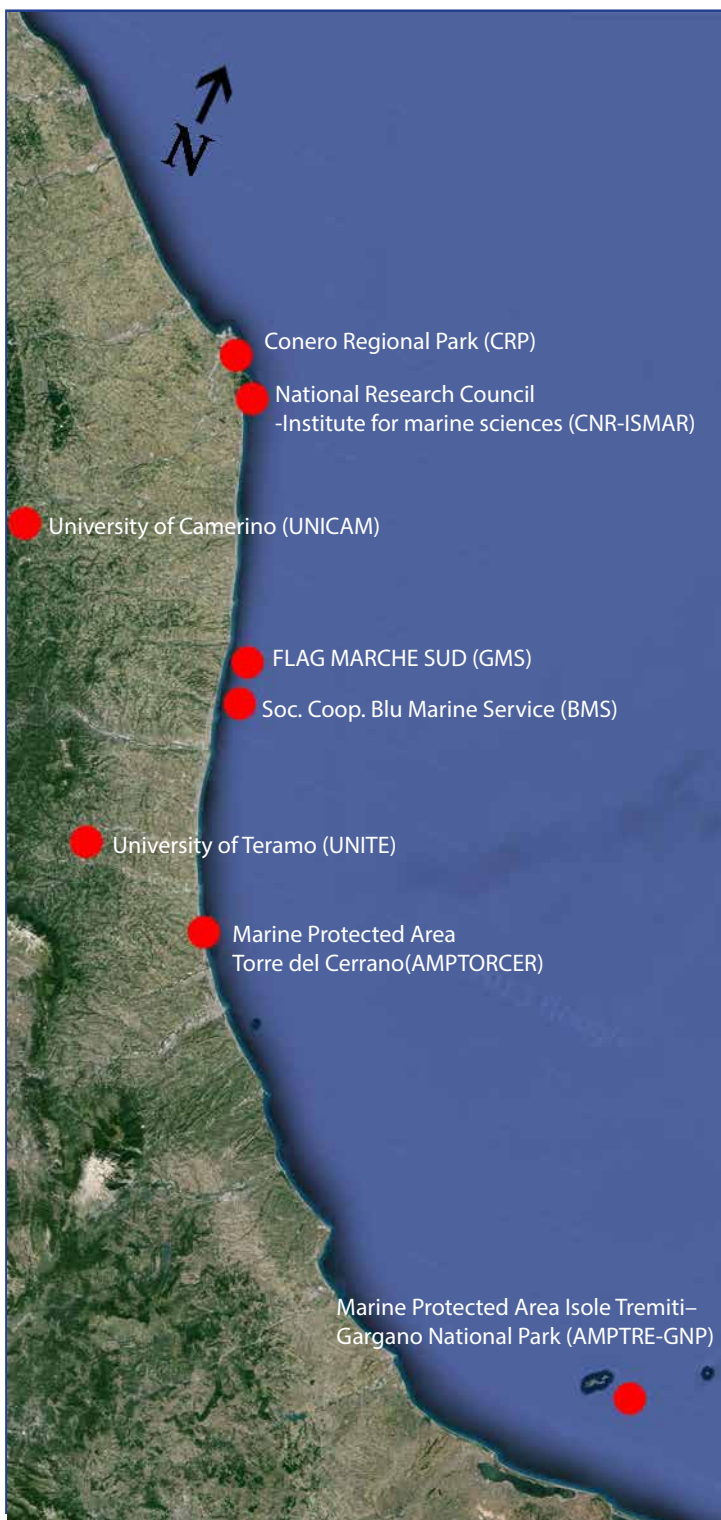
The project objectives are:

- to improve the balance between the EU fishing fleet and the resources available for the fishing activities;
- to contribute to the reduction of the EU fishing fleet preserving jobs along the coastal communities;
- to demonstrate the feasibility and the economic sustainability of maritime activities other than fishing, through a converted fishing vessel; these activities will be carried out by the vessel crew making available his knowledge and skills;
- to allocate the fishing vessel to the fishermen training for sustainable activities regarding the use of marine resources.

### WHO WE ARE

- FLAG MARCHE SUD (GMS)
- MPA Torre del Cerrano (AMPTORCER)
- Conero Regional Park (CRP)
- MPA Isole Tremiti–Gargano National Park (AMPTRE-GNP)
- University of Teramo (UNITE)
- University of Camerino (UNICAM)
- National Research Council-Institute for marine sciences (CNR-ISMAR)
- Soc. Coop. Blu Marine Service (BMS)

## MAP OF INVOLVED AREAS



### Stato di avanzamento delle attività di progetto

- Vessel conversion for sea activities
- Test of the new boat
- Re-orientation and crew training
- Marine Monitoring of the central Adriatic Sea
- Recreational and sustainable activities in MPAs
- Dissemination activities



### “The project: mission and sustainability over time”

The project was developed through a strong and proven partnership. The work of the partners involved has been successful and we can say that the main strength of the project was to have created a real and practical co-operation between local authorities, marine protected areas and research institutions in the Adriatic Sea.

Ecosee/a is a pilot project for the Adriatic sea and represents also an important training opportunity. The collaboration between research and training institutes, marine protected areas, FLAGs and fishermen will create a territorial uniqueness, able to provide guidance on the writing of the future European policies for the management of marine and coastal areas.

The partnership has identified a vessel and its crew (2 units) . They will operate for at least three years, one year funded by the project and a further 2 years by the use of internal resources from the individual partners, in order to develop the activities proposed by the European call. The additional resources come from national and international funding regarding research initiatives with vessels of the type envisaged in this project. Moreover the FLAG Marche sud, in cooperation with other FLAGs (the ones already existing and funded by the 2007/2013 EFF Axis 4.1. and by the 2014/2020 EMFF axis 4.1, and can join also the future Croatian FLAGs) will develop a project that will bring the boat to operate in a larger space along the Adriatic sea .

Marine Protected Areas will be able to use the boat in subsequent years with summer activities for ecotourism in the sea.

### Updates...

- > The kick off meeting of the project was carried out,
- > The Agreements between the leader and the European Commission and between the leader and the partners has been concluded,
- > The vessel conversion is in progress (from fishing vessel to monitoring and tourism vessel),
- > The first part of the training for the crew has been carried out,
- > Meetings of working team: Preparatory Actions, Scheduling, Disseminations and communications,
- > Definition of the program of the 1st National Public Event at the MPA Torre del Cerrano.