



Mediverseaty

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Institute for marine biology
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In quest of the human dimensions of
MEDiterranean Marine Biodiversity



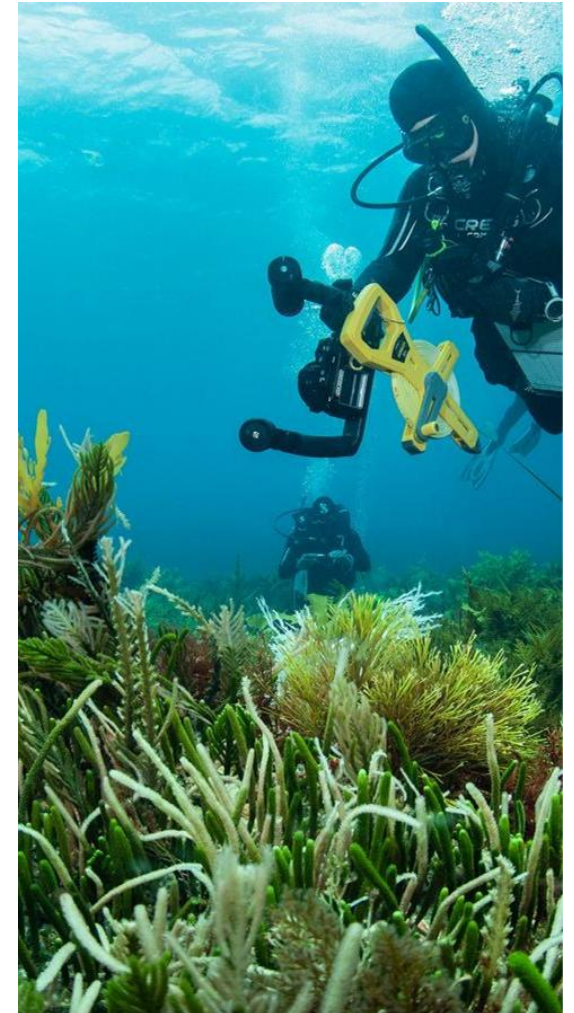
MEDiverSEAty Project Concept

The main concept of the project is the implementation of a **Doctoral Network Training and Research Program** involving **6 European mediterranean countries** (Italy, Malta, France, Spain, Montenegro and Greece) on contemporary marine sciences, policies and education. **MEDiverSEAty** brings the cultural, social and political dimensions of marine biodiversity to the centre of two key objects of local, national and regional policies across the Mediterranean Basin as of the **UNESCO Decade**, namely:

- **Ocean Literacy**
- **Marine Biodiversity Conservation**

Ocean Literacy is about a deepened understanding of **the ocean's influence on us and our influence on the ocean**. It gathers education, communication and civic engagement strategies. In order to be transferred into factual and transformative actions on the territories, it must **focus on precise objects**.

Too often **Biodiversity Conservation does not directly involve citizens** (and consequently social, cultural, and attitudinal differences), **risking being ineffective** ("on paper" only), misleading, short-lived, and generating conflicts with marine users and stakeholders (tourists, fishers, developers).





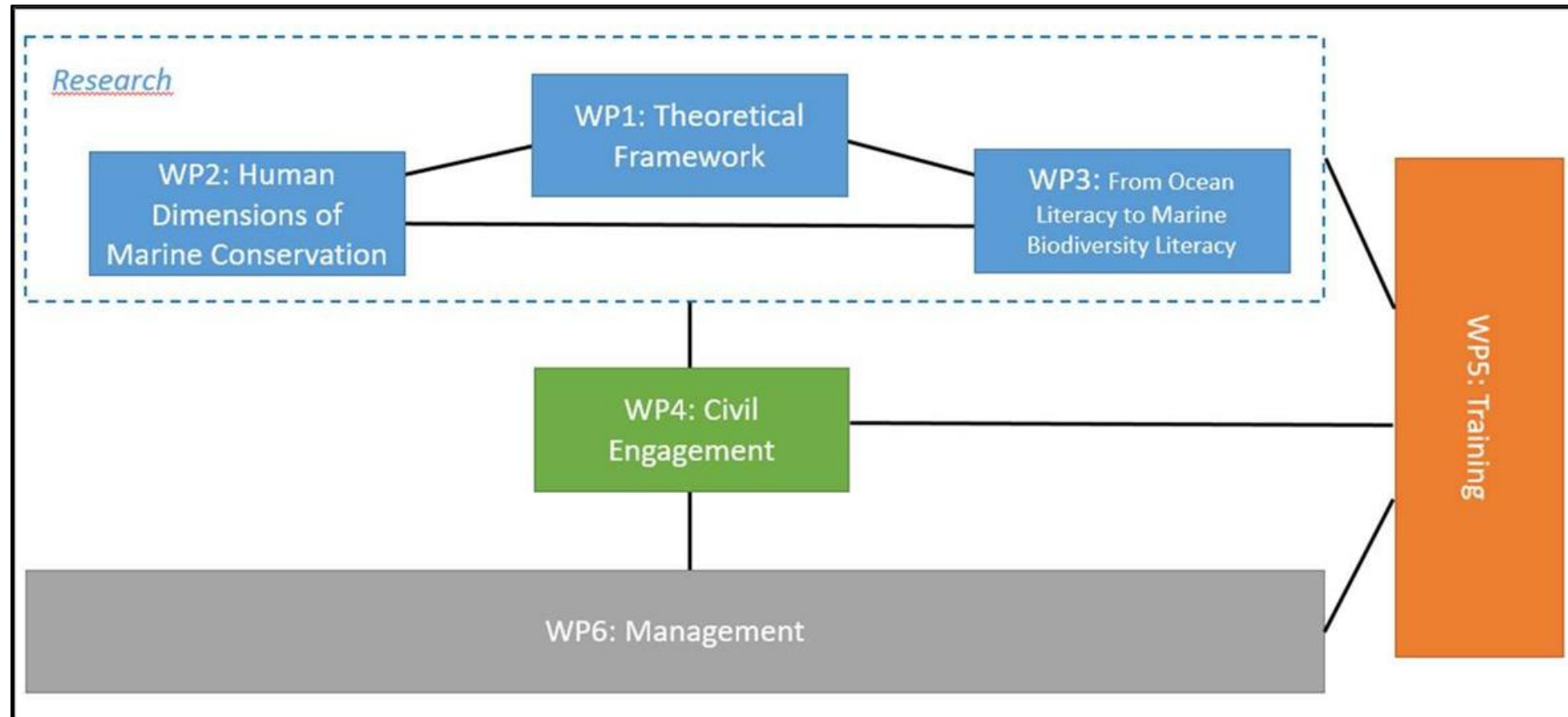
Project objectives

Due to this background, MEDiverSEAty scientific **research objectives (RO)** are:

- RO1: To **develop a common theoretical framework** (lexicon, concepts and interoperable notions) of Mediterranean Marine Biodiversity Conservation which **integrate human and biological dimensions** and implications (WP1)
- RO2: To **foster the crucial role of human dimensions in the protection and conservation of Marine Biodiversity** (WP2)
- RO3: To make **Biodiversity the focus of *Mediterranean Ocean Literacy*** (WP3)
- RO4: The MEDiverSEAty community is expected to have a long-term positive **impact on national and EU planning and implementation of governance strategies for the sustainable management of marine resources.** (WP2) and the engagement of relevant stakeholders (**WP4 and WP5**).

MEDiverSEAty WPs structure

The project consists of 6 Work Packages (WPs) articulated/interconnected as shown below:





State of play of the recruitment

10 DCs, engaged in collaborative research bridging the **academic and non-academic** sectors, with a strong focus on the interplay between **human and biological aspects** of marine biodiversity, have been selected by **7 host institutions** (UNIMIB, CNRS, CSIC, UCG, UAEGEAN, UM, TB21) **in 6 different countries** (Italy, France, Montenegro, Greece, Malta, Spain) and all have been **enrolled in their PhD programme by 1 November 2024**.

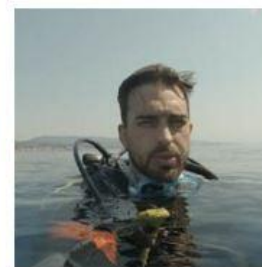
In compliance with the programme rules, the positions were advertised on the **websites and the social media accounts** of Beneficiaries and Associated Partners, as well as on EURAXESS and on the project dedicated website

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/214137>
<https://mediverseaty.eu/apply-for-positions/>

With the exception of the 2 positions opened at EHESS, which was brought forward by a few months in agreement with the Consortium, the recruitment processes of the other 8 positions were carried out simultaneously in **Spring 2024**.

Each DC benefits from **dedicated supervision** and the first release of their **Career Development Plans** have been submitted.

Additionally, the **Training Agenda** for the entire project has been finalized, even though this programme is understood to be a living document that will be updated on an annual basis with training opportunities provided by the project partners.





1 UNIMIB	Aloïs Aguetant	Supervisors: Marcella Schmidt di Friedberg (UNIMIB); Maria Cristina Mangano (Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn)
2 TBA21	Ludovica Montecchio	Supervisors: Michal Kucerak (TBA21); Stefano Malatesta (University of Milano Bicocca); Pedro Pombo (University of Malta)
3 CNRS	Victoria Campón	Supervisor: Roberto Casati (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique)
4 CNRS	Carlotta La Penna	Supervisor: Roberto Casati (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique)
5 UM	Vincenzo de Cancellis	Supervisors: Stefano Moncada (University of Malta); Stefano Malatesta (University of Milano Bicocca)
6 UM	Justin Whittle	Supervisors: Marie Briguglio (University of Malta); Alan Deidun (University of Malta)
7 UCG	Gabriel Rivas Mena	Supervisor: Vesna Mačić (University of Montenegro)
8 UCG	Antonija Avdalović	Supervisor: Milica Mandić (University of Montenegro)
9 CSIC	Gabriel Araujo Njaim	Supervisors: Ana Ruiz Frau (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas), Hilmar Hinz (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas)
10 UAEGEAN	Ines Vincent	Supervisors: George Tsirtsis (University of the Aegean); Giorgos Kokkoris (University of the Aegean), Stefano Malatesta (University of Milano Bicocca)





PhD	Individual Research Project	Beneficiary	WP2 (Fieldwork)	WP3 (Fieldwork)	Secondment(s)	Expertise and Training provided by Secondments' Hosts
1	Managing the protection of marine biodiversity through ecosystem services approaches: implications on marine and coastal tourism. A gender perspective	UNIMIB	SZN CSIC		Worldrise BLOOM	Gender and Blue Economy; Gender implication in Marine Literacy
2	Ocean- Archive.org: Collaborative exploration of digital ecosystems	TBA21		SZN MFIAD L	UNIMIB	Environmental Communication and Interpretation; Cultural Heritage and Arts
3	Representation of Biodiversity in Coastal and non- coastal populations	CNRS	UtM BLOOM		TBA21	Visual Representation; Under-represented population
4	Developing a consensual and interoperable notion of Marine Biodiversity	CNRS	SZN		UAEGEAN UNIMIB	PhD and MD Program in Marine Sciences Education and Anthropology (through an interdisciplinary perspective)
5	Marine Protection and CCA	UtM	HPF		JPMD	Coastal zones management and risk prevention
6	Economics and Citizen Sciences	UtM		HPF	UCG BLOOM	Stakeholder involvement in marine sampling
7	Artificial Reefs	UCG		JPMD CSIC	UNIMIB	Science – Education (Human Sciences for Education Department, PhD in Education); Reef Restoration (MaRHE Center)
8	Socio-economic impacts of sea-surface microplastic concentrations	UCG	JPMD		SZN Marilles	Marine resources management and conservation
9	The different dimensions of human-nature connectedness in the Mediterranean	CSIC	Marilles		SZN	Fisheries and biodiversity protection
10	Integrated Coastal Zone Management	UAEGEAN		MFIADL CSIC	HPF	Conservation through art and education

WP1 Theoretical Framework (M3-M36).

Lead Beneficiary: CNRS

Capitalising a long-term collaboration among the partners tackling a fundamental node for marine sciences: the **reconceptualization of the Ocean as a driver to foster sustainable behaviours and policies**, and developing the **theoretical research** promoted by CNRS and EHESS, the network will investigate the relevance of some key categories for the design and development of WP2 and WP3 as the projects of the 10 PhD candidates. The aim is building a common lexicon *MEDiverSEAty* community may refer to.

2025 (M18)

- D1** Mediterranean Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Ocean Literacy State of the Art
- D2** MEDiverSEAty Lexicon
- D21** Ocean Literacy in the Med and Mediterranean Biodiversity Conservation Report



WP2 Human Dimensions of Marine Conservation (M7-M42).

Lead Beneficiary: CSIC

Through case studies in the countries involved, field research, training and secondments in several non-academic organisations operating in different sectors (private and public, no profit etc.) the project investigates constraints and challenges, as well as opportunities and benefits, concerning the inclusion of **human dimensions in marine, and terrestrial, biodiversity conservation practices and policies.**

2027 (M42)

D3 Guidelines on human dimensions of Marine Biodiversity Conservation



WP3 From Ocean Literacy to Marine Biodiversity Literacy (M7-M42).

Lead Beneficiary: UAGEAN

Through case studies in the countries involved, field research, training and secondments in several non academic organisations operating in different sectors (private and public, no profit etc.) the project investigates **constraints, as well as good practices**, for the development of **strategies, methods and practices** for the definition and legitimization of a **Mediterranean Marine Biodiversity Literacy**.

2027(M42)

D3 Guidelines on human dimensions of Marine Biodiversity Conservation



WP4 Civil Engagement (M1-M48)

Lead Beneficiary: TBA21

The work and results of WP3 and WP4 will be capitalised in Civil Engagement, i.e. the design of **communication and dissemination actions** of this WP (e.g. publications, campaigns and workshops, etc.) will be expressly aimed at **raising awareness and debunking misconceptions**, through the building of effective strategies, the mobilization of communities resources and knowledge sharing and the promotion of pilot projects concerning Marine Biodiversity Literacy and Conservation in the countries involved and beyond.

2025 (M15)

D13 Plan for Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication

2027

(M42) **D7** MEDiverSEAty contribution to the OceanArchive.org

(M45) **D8** MEDiverSEAty final conference

(M48) **D19** Plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results, including communication activities



WP5 Training (M4-M42)

Lead Beneficiary: UM

The *MEDiverSEAty* Doctoral Training Programme is interdisciplinary and intersectoral and provides each trainee with scientific, technical and transferable skills. **Local training is adequately combined with network-wide training activities.**

2025 (M13)

D5 Training agenda

D18 Career Development Plan

2027 (M42)

D16 Report on individual CDPs development



WP6 Management

Lead Beneficiary: UNIMIB

The overall project management.

2024

- (M2) **D9** Project website
- D11** Supervisory Board of the network
- (M7) **D15** Advisory Board established
- (M10) **D10** PhD recruitment

2025

- (M13) **D12** Data Management Plan
- D17** Progress report

2027

- (M36) **D20** Common MEDiverSEAty Lexicon
- (M37) **D14** Yearly Progress report
- (M42) **D6** Brief for Ethics and Integrity in Scientific Research



Ethic issues



MEDiverSEAty points to **the highest ethical / methodological standards in Environmental, Behavioural and Political research on coastal and maritime environments.**

Concerning the management of Ethics issues the following amendments to the DoA have been submitted by the Consortium.

- **Post-pone of Milestone 2** (Ethical Approval) from M7 to M28 to allow each institution's ethical committee to provide their evaluation on DCs' research
- **Change of the means of verification** (i.e. no longer the Ethical Committee's UNIMIB approval)
- **Change of paragraph "The management of ethical issues"** (about the role of the Coordinator) as follows:

UNIMIB, as Coordinator, will ensure that ethical procedures and principles are respected throughout the Project implementation by:

- establishing **general guidelines**, that also Associated Partners will be asked to observe **when hosting PhD candidates** during training activities and secondments;
- **coordinating the management of ethical issues** that may arise in the project by setting the procedures/deadlines to be followed by the PhD students and their supervisors;
- **requesting the ethical approval to their institution's dedicated committee;**
- **collecting all the ethical approvals from all the partners' ethics committees** once all projects will have started

Gender balance



A twin gender-sensitive approach will be integrated during the project life-time:

- (i) providing equal opportunities for all (pay attention to the participation of women and men researchers and also to a gender balance in the project consortium and teams at all levels and in decision-making positions), and
- (ii) integrating gender dimension into the research content all the way from the initial research idea to the dissemination of results.

In addition, **special measures and actions will be implemented within MEDiverSEAty to encourage a better integration of the gender dimension in science.** Specifically, the following actions will be adopted:

- (i) flexible work conditions;
- (ii) encouraging wider access to R&I for women;
- (iii) in the understanding that role models are important to female researchers and to encourage their participation in R&I, female scientists and leaders from the research intensive institutions will be asked to actively participate in the consortium and teams activities;
- (iv) the consortium will set up mechanisms in place to manage and monitor gender equality aspects.



Management activities

MEDiverSEAty has also fostered collaboration among its Consortium of 16 academic and non-academic partners, with **all governance bodies now established**:

- **Advisory Board (AB)** includes 4 high level scientific experts in the fields of biodiversity, marine conservation, education, etc. who provide a valuable referral point for the partners of the project and will advise the Project Coordinator and all involved project's Boards on the strategic scientific and training direction of the Project
- **Supervisory Board (SB)** includes representatives of all beneficiaries and associated partners and 2 DCs, counting 1 vote. It is responsible for the overall direction and management of the project and leads the project team with the support of a project manager appointed for the whole duration of the action.
- **Training Group (TG)** includes a member per each academic and non-academic partner and coordinates training activities and programs
- **Supervisors Group (SG)** includes supervisors of the 10 DC oversees (working as a group) the development of their thesis projects

Moreover, one person has been recruited by the Coordinator to support the project management and the project-dedicated website: <https://mediverseaty.eu> has been developed to offer both **an overview** of MEDiverSEAty research project and to **allow file sharing and collaborative work** among team members.



Advisory Board

MEDiverSEAty Advisory Board is composed by four External Experts shortlisted and voted by all Consortium members for their expertise in the fields of biodiversity, marine conservation, education and environmental law.

The Advisory Board provides a valuable referral point for the partners of the project and advises the Project Coordinator and all involved project's Boards on the strategic scientific and training direction of the MEDiverSEAty project, providing critical feedback on all aspects of the network activities.



Evangelia Drakou
HAROKOPIO UNIVERSITY
OF ATHENS (GREECE)



Gianluca Sarà
UNIVERSITY OF PALERMO
(ITALY)



Francesco Sindico
UNIVERSITY OF
STRATHCLYDE (UK)



Deborah Rowan Wright
INDEPENDENT RESEARCHER
(UK)

The Supervisory Board is the decision making body responsible for the overall direction and management of MEDiverSEAty project and includes representatives of all Beneficiaries and Associated Partners and a representative from among the Doctoral Candidates elected by simple majority for a period of 12 months.

The Supervisory Board leads the project team with the support of the Project Manager and the Coordinator.

All

Beneficiaries

Associated Partners



Appointed members

Stefano Malatesta
(UNIMIB) - Chairperson

Roberto Casati (CNRS)

Stefano Moncada (UtM)

Mirko Djurovic (UCG)

Ana Ruiz-Frau (CSIC)

Giorgos Kokkoris
(UAEGEAN)

Petra Linhartová (TBA21)

Maria Cristina Mangano
(SZN)

Léna Fréjaville (BLOOM)

Raquel Vaquer-Sunye
(Marilles)

Darren Saliba (HPF)

Nikolaos Zouros
(NHMLPF)

Milena Raicevic (JPMD)

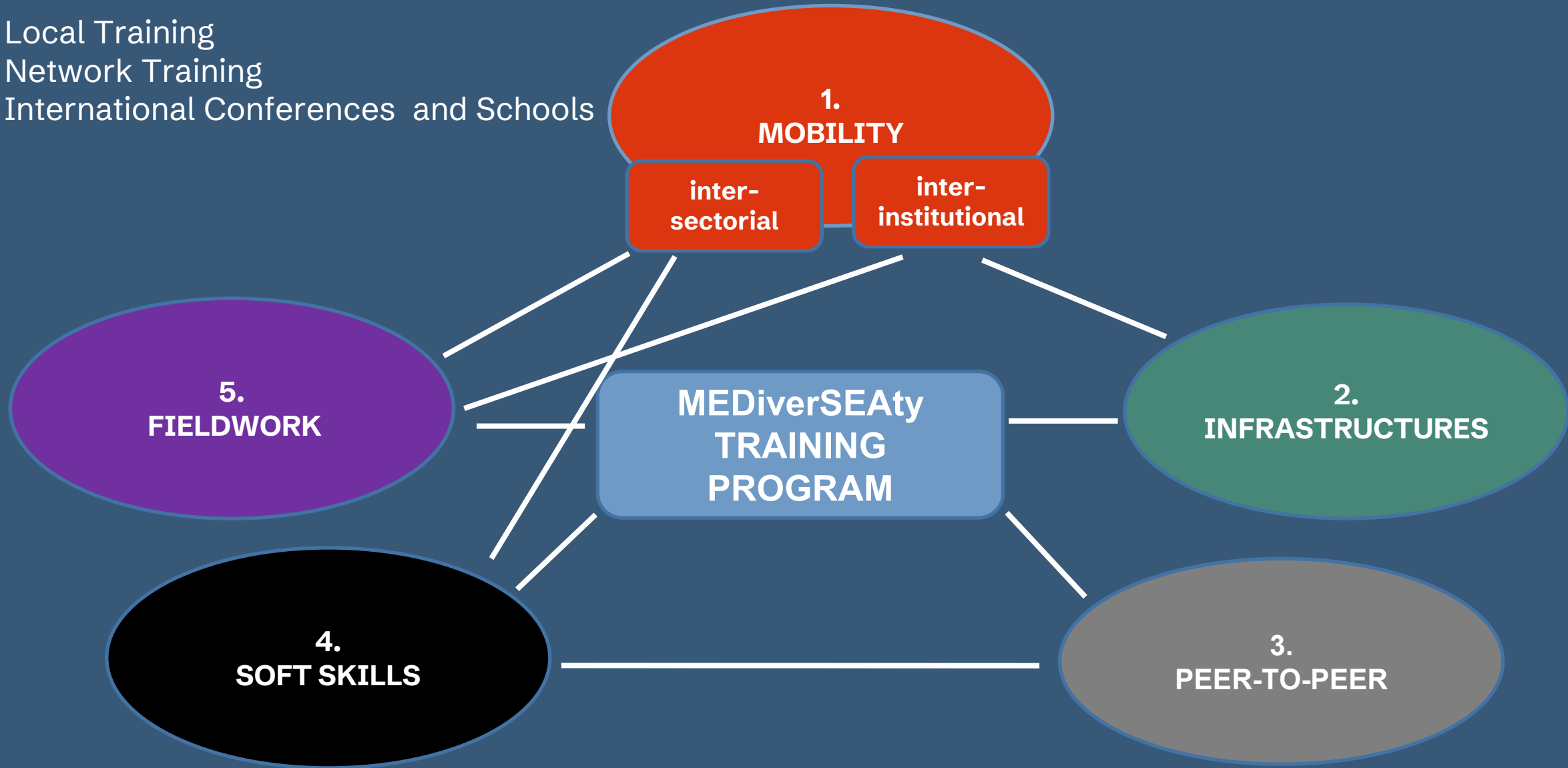
Chiara Silvestrini
(Worldrise)

Pierre Monnet (EHESS)

Lluís Gómez-Pujol (UIB)

Training program

- Local Training
- Network Training
- International Conferences and Schools



Training program

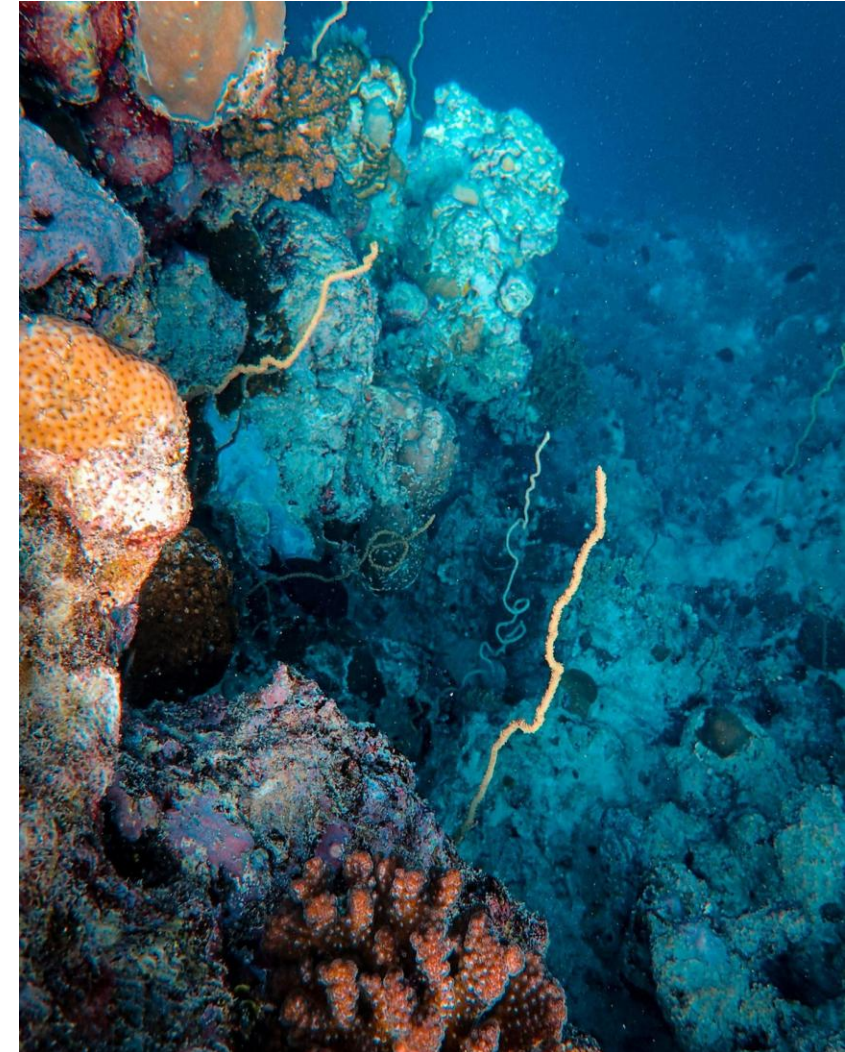


- **Mobility of PhDs between partners.** Each PhD candidate will need to undertake at least 1 secondment with the non-academic partner of the consortium for a minimum period of 6 months.
- **Workshops and seminars organised by academic and non-academic partners.** There will be a calendar of at least 2 interdisciplinary workshops each year (at least 1 workshop per country) focused on specific topics relevant for the whole project's objectives, to which all 10 DCs will be invited.
- **MEDiverSEAty community-building days.** During their first year (M18) PhD candidates (together with the SB) will be hosted by the venues of UAEGEAN and The Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest in Lésbos to attend an intensive residential summer school that will offer training on data analysis as well as the opportunity to build personal and professional relationships fundamental to develop a peer-to-peer scientific community
- **MEDiverSEAty Symposium.** TB will open a call (M30) on a topic of relevance to the project (e.g, Fishing, Heritage, etc.) and, working as a Board, **the 10 DCs will have to prepare a programme of seminars, roundtables, excursions, exhibitions, etc.** inviting lecturers and experts. The purpose is to develop the students' agency in their own training, helping them to actively and directly experience transversal skills (keynote choice, organization, reporting, communication...). TG will assess the opportunity to promote fund-raising actions to integrate the program with a travelling initiative across the Adriatic: a cruise that will depart from the Bay of Kotor (ME) and will include training and sampling activities on the field.
- **Online training.** Each year TG will plan a calendar of webinars for all the candidates. Webinars will host keynote speakers and will address key topics related to marine conservation and marine literacy.
- **MEDiverSEAty Moodle page** (online training hosted by the WP5 Leader's platform) will be opened for the use of PhD students.
- **Personal Coaching.**
- **Content production and online platform management training.** Candidates will cooperate to the development of Ocean-Archive.org: a participatory platform for ocean collaborative research, conversation, imagination, and action. (see WP4)
- **Mentoring in a gender perspective.**
- **Project Meetings.** The 10 DCs will be invited to meetings during the whole project cycle.



MEDiverSEAty Training Agenda will continue to be a living document, constantly updated by WP5 Leader (UM) and team members can send to WP5 Leader team proposals for its integration and/or to share events organized by subjects external to the Network.

	Main Training Events & Conferences	ECTS (if any)	Lead Institution	Action Month (estimated)
1	PhD course: Managing Your Doctoral Journey Successfully		UM	M13
2	International conference: Adriatic Biodiversity protection /AdriBioPro 2026 /Kotor/Montenegro		UCG	M33
3	MA Course: Epistemologies of the Ocean (blended learning)	6	EHESS	M22
4	Webinar: UNOC 2025: Innovative Science-to-Policy Approaches		CNRS	M15
5	Webinar series: Ocean Literacy and Ocean Citizenship: education, culture and sustainability		UNIMIB	M17
6	An overview of network analysis with a hands-on		CSIC	M23
7	An overview of interdisciplinary research		CSIC	M23
8	OCEAN/UNI digital training programme cycle		TBA21	M27-29
9	MA Course: Climate Change, Changing Behaviors (blended learning)	3	EHESS	M22-23
10	Webinar series: Project Design		UNIMIB	M25-27
11	Summer School: Data collection and analysis in socio-ecological systems		UAEGEAN	M19
12	Webinar series: Women in the Blue Economy		Worldrise, BLOOM	M20-22
13	Webinar series: MPA and Conservation strategies		Marilles, HPF, JPMD	M20-22
14	Webinar series: Museums interpretation. Enhancing the visitor experience		MFIADL, TBA21	M20-22
15	Summer School: Sustainable Development of Yachting and Cruise Industry	2	UCG	M31
16	Summer School: BENTACS - BENThos TAXonomy CourseS TAXONOMY OF MOLLUSCS		SZN	M18
17	World Oceans Day (learning-by-organizing)		TBA21	M42

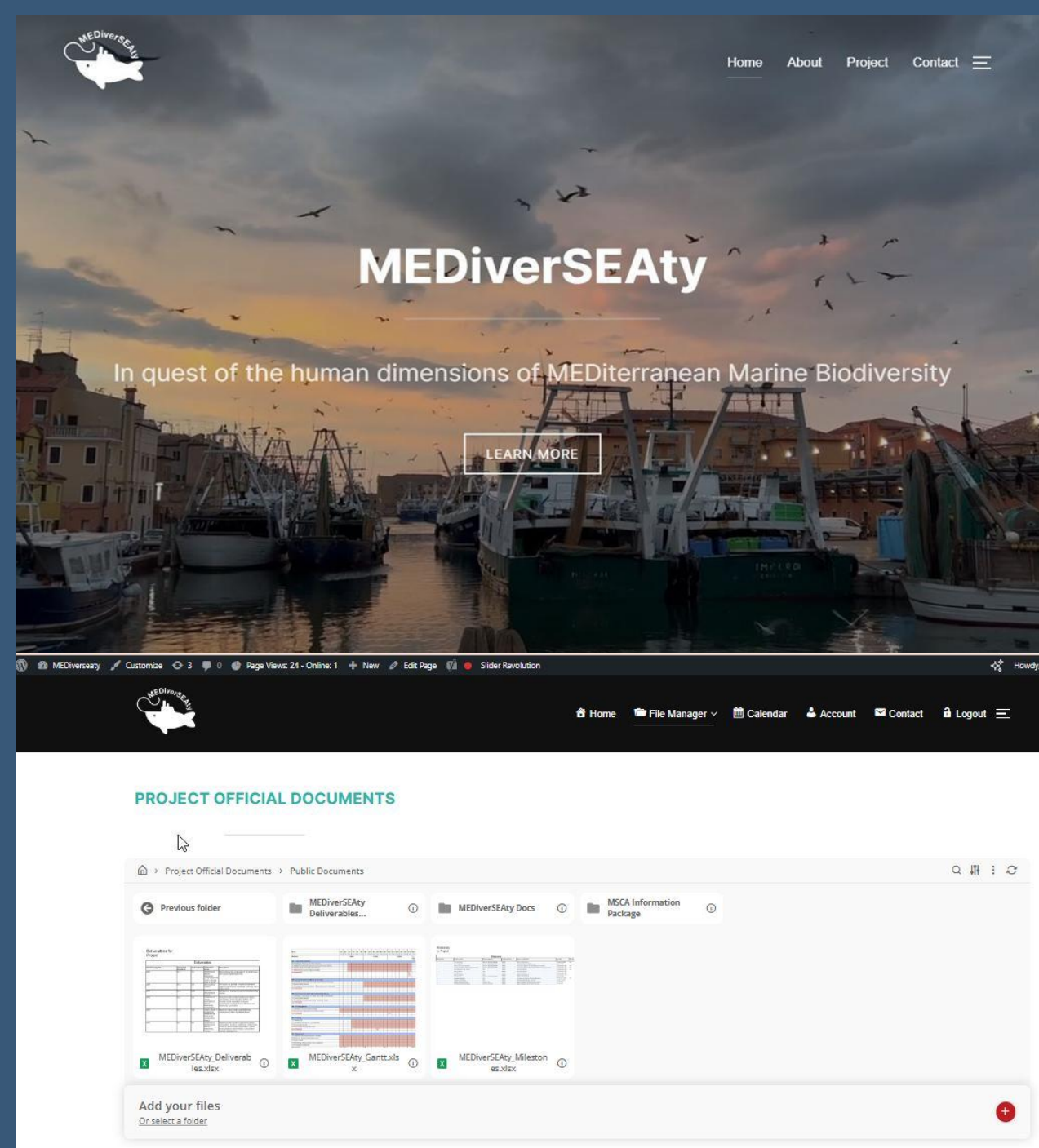


Website

The project dedicated website (<https://mediverseaty.eu/>) has been developed using **Wordpress** (to guarantee an easy and intuitive use by researchers and, at the same time, offer a good level of implementation with specific applications, development and updating in the long term).

A **reserved area** (File Manager, Google-Drive based) has been created to allow file and data sharing among team members and support collaborative work (and different permissions have been set according to users' profiles).

The website will be further implemented (news, partners' social media integration etc.) in coordination with the **overall strategy** for Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication developed within WP4.





Data Management and Open Science

The Coordinator, with the support of all beneficiaries' scientists-in-charge, has started using **DMP online platform**:

<https://dmponline.dcc.ac.uk> to develop the DMP (which was due by M13 and is **still in progress** and that, to some extent, will continue to be a living document for the whole duration of the project).

DMP structure

1. Data summary

State the purpose of the data collection/generation

Explain the relation to the objectives of the project

Specify the types and formats of data generated/collected

Specify if existing data is being re-used (if any)

Specify the origin of the data

State the expected size of the data (if known)

Outline the data utility: to whom will it be useful

2. FAIR data

2.1 Making data findable, including provisions for metadata:

2.2 Making data openly accessible:

2.3 Making data interoperable:

2.4 Increase data re-use (through clarifying licenses)

3. Allocation of resources

4. Data security

5. Ethical aspects

University of Milano-Bicocca  Research Data Management

MSCA Doctoral Network MEDiverSEAty

Project details Contributors Plan overview Initial DMP Detailed DMP Final review DMP Research outputs Share Download

expand all | collapse all

9/9 answered

1. Data summary (1 / 1)

Provide a summary of the data addressing the following issues:

- State the purpose of the data collection/generation
- Explain the relation to the objectives of the project
- Specify the types and formats of data generated/collected
- Specify if existing data is being re-used (if any)
- Specify the origin of the data
- State the expected size of the data (if known)
- Outline the data utility: to whom will it be useful

B *I*    

The MEDiverSEAty DMP is a living document and will be updated throughout the project whenever significant changes arise. Considering that MEDiverSEAty project is in its initial phase and that the research framework for the 10 PhD research is still to be defined in detail, at this stage it is not yet possible to anticipate all the types nor the size of data that will be generated during the project development and within the 10 PhD research.

Nonetheless the Coordinator is working on a template for the description of the datasets that will be available to each partner of the consortium in order to elaborate the detailed description for each dataset generated within project. As the datasets are identified they will be described and added in the future versions of this living document.

The data generated within the research Work Packages (WP1, WP2 and WP3) as well as within dissemination and training activities (WP4 and WP5) to meet the following Research Objectives (RO):

Comments & Guidance

Guidance

Comments (2)

DCC

expand all | collapse all

Data volume

+

Data format

+

Data description

+



Data Management and Open Science

MEDiverSEAty will promote among all partners an approach based on **open cooperative work and systematic sharing of knowledge and tools** as early and widely as possible, **managing research data in line with the FAIR principles** of ‘findability’, ‘accessibility’, ‘interoperability’ and ‘reusability’, involving all relevant knowledge actors, civil society and end users in the co-creation of guidelines as well as for data collection (e.g. citizen science).

The data generated within the PhD projects to contribute to the research WorkPackages (WP1, WP2 and WP3), as well as to the project dissemination and training (WP4 and WP5) will be preferentially **deposited in institutional, generalist or domain-specific repositories**, such **Zenodo** or **BOARD** (Bicocca Open Archive Research Data), a **FAIR compliant data management system** developed by UNIMIB and conceived for a full interoperability in storing and disseminating research data that is available to all Consortium members. **Through a stable and persistent identifier (DOI) data will be clearly findable and they will remain accessible under a properly declared licence** (normally CC-BY).

MEDdiverSEAty will adopt an **Open Science Policy for dissemination**, which includes open access publishing for all the scientific publications resulting from the network, open data and open tools. More specifically, a list of actions will guarantee dissemination of scientific results through a variety of channels:

- **Publications in international high-impact journals:** Gold open access will be provided for every peer-reviewed scientific publication that results from the project.
- **Organization of and participation to national and international conferences and meetings** to present major results of the research conducted by the MEDiverSEAty community starting from the second year of research.

Moreover, in the coming months, UNIMIB will also organize a webinar on Open Science for all MEDiverSEAty fellows.

Thank you!



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MEDiterranean Marine Biodiversity