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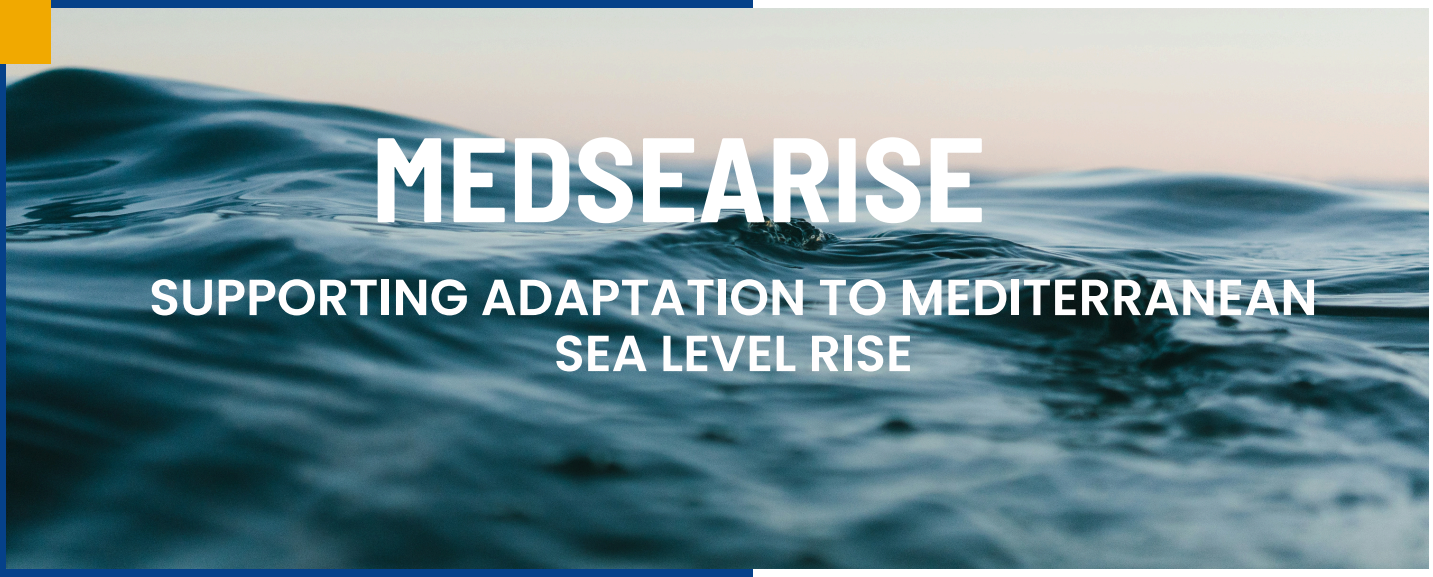
May, 2025



MEDSEARISE

SUPPORTING ADAPTATION TO MEDITERRANEAN SEA LEVEL RISE

The first half of 2025 has been a dynamic and productive period for the MedSeaRise project. From the successful transnational meeting in Malta to the steady progress of local case studies across partner regions, the project has taken important steps towards understanding and addressing the impacts of sea level rise in the Mediterranean. This newsletter provides an overview of recent developments, showcases key findings from ongoing case studies, and outlines the next steps planned for the second half of the year.

HTTPS://MEDSEARISE.INTERREG-EURO-MED.EU

Project Meeting in Malta

On **April 1–2**, the University of Malta hosted the **2nd project meeting of MedSeaRise**, bringing together partners from Greece, Italy, France, Spain, Montenegro, and Malta. Discussions focused on sea level rise impacts and the development of coordinated adaptation strategies.

The **University of Malta**, leading Work Package 2, presented progress on the project's Impact Assessment Framework, aimed at evaluating risks for selected coastal areas.

The meeting also featured contributions from **Julia Bonello** (Energy and Water Agency), who discussed Malta's water management systems, and **Varvara Bougiouri** (Interreg Euro-MED Natural Heritage), who outlined relevant Euro-MED Mission initiatives and synergies.

CASE STUDIES

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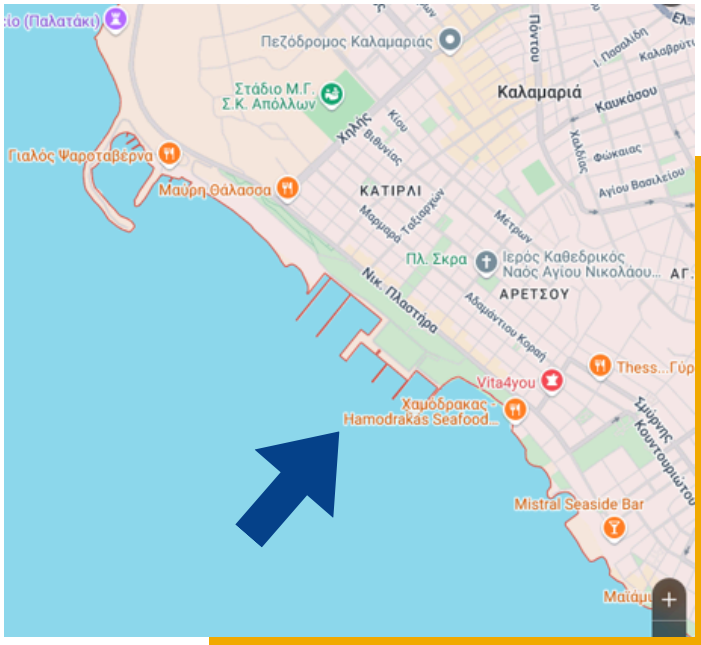
ANATOLIKI S.A. – Kalamaria case study

ANATOLIKI SA is conducting a case study in Kalamaria to assess human-induced risks from sea level rise. The contract was awarded to the Democritus University of Thrace, with results expected by July 1st, 2025. The process required a multidisciplinary team and faced challenges such as limited data and complex coordination.



ARPA FVG – case studies

Aquileia archaeological site

ARPA FVG is conducting a case study on anthropogenic impacts at the UNESCO site of Aquileia. Several archaeological areas are already below sea level and depend on pumping systems for protection. Some have experienced flooding from the Natissa River, while rising groundwater levels are becoming increasingly frequent, posing additional risks.

Legend

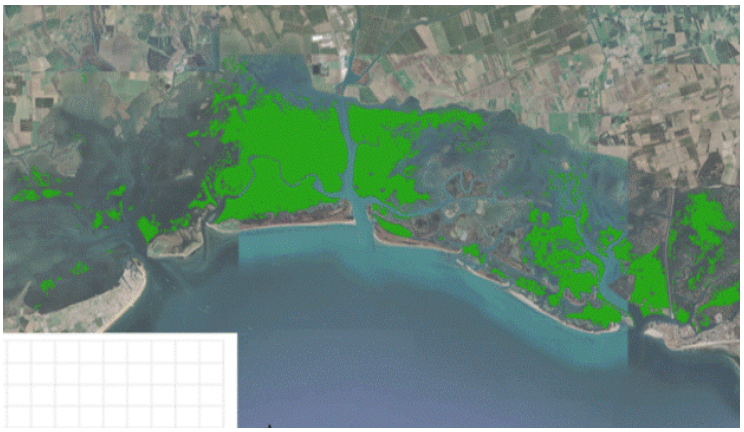
Potentially floodable areas
Archeologial assets within Aquileia's UNESCO site

Flooding of the urban area of Grado town

Another case study on anthropogenic impacts is the Grado town. Sea level rise is already affecting the town, where high tides increasingly flood large parts of it. The frequency and extent of these events are expected to grow. Grado is not only a major tourist destination with 1.5 million summer visitors, but also a spa town and historic site, home to one of Christianity's oldest basilicas.

CASE STUDIES

The Marano and Grado lagoon



ARPA FVG is also carrying out a case study on the impacts of sea level rise on lagoon ecosystems. Stakeholders have reported that reduced freshwater input—driven by climate change and recurring droughts—combined with rising sea levels is disrupting the lagoon's natural balance. Increased salinity is leading to the decline of marsh reeds, now being replaced by salt-tolerant plant species. This ecological shift threatens bird species of high conservation value, such as the red heron, whiskered tern, and marsh harrier, all of which depend on reed habitats for nesting and survival.

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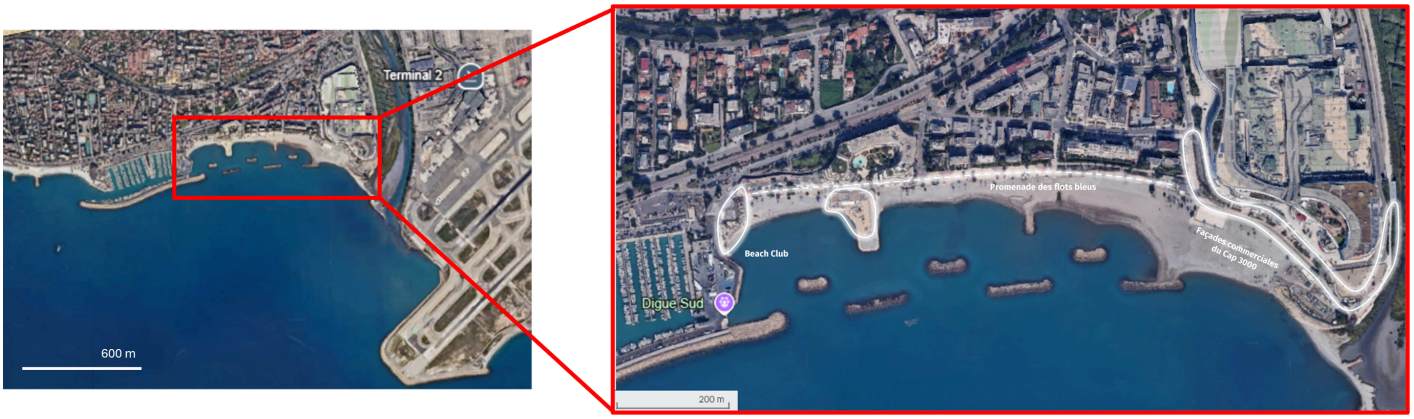
CCINCA - case studies



CCINCA is leading a case study on a urbanized coastal area in Saint-Laurent-du-Var. This site includes recreational and economic activities close to the sea, such as restaurants, shops, and a highly frequented seaside promenade.

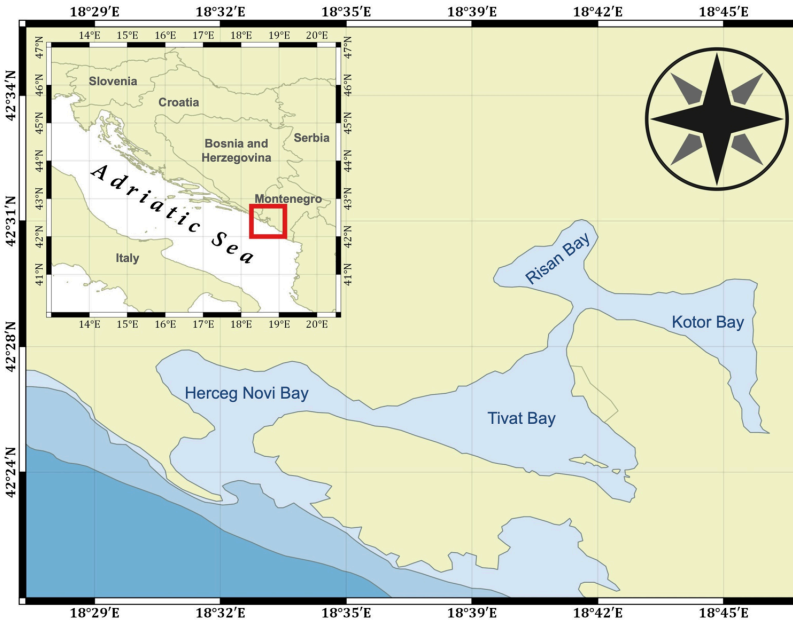
It faces potential risks linked to sea level rise and extreme weather events. The study will combine existing data and climate projections provided by MedSeaRise partners.

Marine submersion scenarios, economic vulnerabilities, and potentially saltwater intrusion will be assessed.

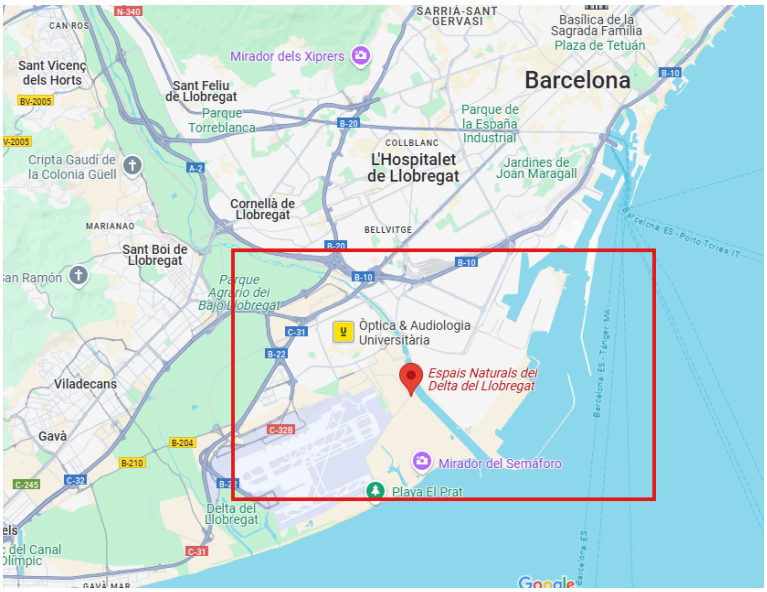
The results will help develop local adaptation strategies and contribute to building benchmarks for the project.

UoM – IBMK – Boka Kotorska Bay case study

The University of Montenegro – IMBK is assessing the vulnerability of anthropogenic infrastructure in Kotor and Risan Bays, focusing on sea level rise, temperature and salinity increase, and shifts in species distribution. Although emissions are declining, global sea level and temperature trends remain upward. In the Adriatic, sea level rise is slower—currently about 1 mm/year in Boka Kotorska—due to coastal uplift.



BCC – case study in Delta del Llobregat



A comprehensive case study is being carried out in the Delta del Llobregat, south of Barcelona, focusing on the impacts of sea level rise on human activities. Key contributors include the Port of Barcelona and the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (AMB). The study emphasizes economic impacts, using indicators such as disruption to port operations, increased maintenance costs, and infrastructure damage.

CASE STUDIES

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UM. – Msida creek case study

The case study of the University of Malta focuses on Msida, a flood-prone area in Malta frequently impacted by meteo-tsunamis linked to atmospheric pressure shifts and storms. It will evaluate whether upcoming infrastructure developments could increase flood risks, based on long-term projections from Phase 1 of MedSeaRise. Combining field data, historical analysis, and modeling, the case study aims to inform sustainable planning in collaboration with the Energy and Water Agency.

Project Video Launched !

A short introductory video was produced and shared to present the scope and **objectives** of MedSeaRise to a wider audience. It is available on our website!

What's next:

In the second half of 2025, MedSeaRise will move into a more technical and analytical phase. Partner regions will complete their local case studies and submit detailed impact assessments, which will feed into the development of the project's integrated Impact Assessment Framework. These findings will support comparative analysis across the Mediterranean. Stakeholder engagement workshops are also planned, aiming to discuss preliminary results and explore adaptation strategies. The consortium will begin drafting policy briefs and recommendations to promote evidence-based climate adaptation. Communication efforts will continue, with new articles, videos, and outreach activities to raise awareness and strengthen visibility.

More is to come on the next edition of the Newsletter. Don't forget to subscribe and receive all the related content. Be the first to know all about MedSeaRise project!

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