



COASTRUST

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Newsletter

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On 4 March, stakeholders from public institutions, sectoral agencies, scientific and the non-governmental sector gathered in Neum to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation and Stewardship Agreement for the “From Wetlands to Sea” corridor. Building on the Ćiro Trail, the initiative promotes sustainable tourism while supporting the conservation of protected areas and biodiversity and strengthening cooperation between neighbouring regions.

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As part of the COASTRUST project, Istituto Pangea ETS, with the support of Roma Tre University, carried out the “Bella e Fragile” initiative in Circeo National Park, Italy. Through educational activities involving 10 school classes from Sabaudia and eight free events for citizens and tourists, the initiative raised awareness of coastal dune conservation, biodiversity and the importance of protecting fragile ecosystems through community engagement.

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From 16 to 26 April, the Festival della Custodia took place in Latina, Italy, as part of the COASTRUST-supported CUSTODIRE project. Bringing together schools, associations, citizens and local institutions, the festival featured educational activities, exhibitions, cycling and walking tours along the Sentiero di Circe. Through community participation and collaboration, the

initiative promoted environmental stewardship, active citizenship and shared responsibility for protecting local natural heritage.

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On 10 May, divers, volunteers, local stakeholders and community representatives joined forces for an underwater and coastal cleanup in Neum, organized within the COASTRUST project. Waste was removed from several locations along the coastline, contributing to the protection of the marine ecosystem while raising awareness of responsible environmental practices and the importance of continued community cooperation.

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On 12–13 May, the COASTRUST team joined experts and partners from across the Mediterranean at the Natural Heritage Mission's Community of Practice

Meeting in Lisbon. The team shared project results and experiences, contributed to discussions on sustainable natural heritage management and climate resilience, and presented its shared coastal stewardship approach as a model for strengthening cooperation and sustainable management of coastal resources.

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As part of the 2026 EU Projects Open Days, DUNEA brought together students, teachers and volunteers for a clean-up action at the Neretva River estuary. Participants removed and sorted waste, with a particular focus on HDPE plastic for recycling and reuse, while learning more about the role of local communities in protecting coastal and marine ecosystems through sustainable practices.

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On 14 May, the COASTRUST project was presented to primary school students from the Neretva Valley as part of the 2026 EU Projects Open Days. Through educational activities and a clean-up action at the Neretva River Estuary, students learned about biodiversity, coastal and wetland conservation, and the important role young people and local communities can play in protecting sensitive ecosystems.

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Ahead of the International Day for Biological Diversity, a clean-up action was held in Hutovo Blato Nature Park on 17 May. Participants removed waste from a section of the Krupa River, helping protect the park's valuable wetland ecosystem while raising awareness of biodiversity conservation and responsible management of natural resources.

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On 16 April, COASTRUST partners and local stakeholders met in Shkodra, Albania, to explore collaborative environmental stewardship for the Buna River-Velipojë Protected Landscape. The meeting focused on translating the area's stewardship strategy into concrete actions, strengthening cooperation between local communities, public institutions and environmental organisations to support the long-term conservation of this important Mediterranean ecosystem.

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From 26–29 May, the COASTRUST project was presented at the 4th European GREEN Conference 2026 in Vodice, Croatia. Featured within the GREEN Project Zone, COASTRUST shared its goals and activities with scientists, experts and professionals, highlighting its work on sustainable coastal management, environmental protection and strengthening the resilience of coastal regions.

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On 31 May, children, families, cyclists and local residents gathered in Neum for the “From Wetlands to the Sea” event, celebrating nature and environmental awareness ahead of World Environment Day. Educational workshops, creative activities and a cycling tour connecting Hutovo Blato Nature Park with Neum brought the community together while promoting the conservation of wetland and marine ecosystems.

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On 16 June, COASTRUST was showcased at the Final International Conference of the AWASTER project in Korčula, bringing its experience in sustainable coastal development to a wider international audience. The presentation highlighted COASTRUST’s coastal stewardship approach, stakeholder engagement and collaborative governance models, with particular emphasis

on turning project results into long-term impacts for Mediterranean coastal communities.

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