

ABSTRACT

Sub-Action B.1.1 *Governance analysis*

Sub-action B1.1 of the LIFE SEPOSSO project aims at analyzing and evaluating the governance framework of *P. oceanica* transplantations as a prescribed measure to compensate coastal infrastructural works that impact on *P. oceanica* meadows. The overall aim of this section is to identify the stakeholders involved in the process of a *P. oceanica* transplantation, to investigate their perceptions, and to track down any potential conflict between them. Regarding their involvement and participation in the decision process, the way and extent to which the wider public was informed have been assessed, since information and public participation enhance the implementation of decisions and contribute to public awareness.

Stakeholders were identified and grouped in five categories (“Indirect”, “Regulatory”, “Science and Advocacy”, “Operational” and “Policy”), according to their role in the *P. oceanica* transplantation. A panel list of stakeholders was identified by their level of interest and influence in the decision process. Semi-structured interviews were conducted among stakeholders to understand their perspectives on *P. oceanica* transplantation processes and related issues. A Q-methodology analysis was conducted to identify the principal visions stemming from the Italian national debate about *P. oceanica* transplantations. A conflict analysis was drawn and the overall governance in the four selected case studies was evaluated with a focus on the objectives and attributes of a “good” governance.

In total 124 interviews were conducted to stakeholders belonging to the five categories. Four different visions were identified by the Q-methodology analysis: science and conservation discourse, engineering and industry discourse, participation and environmentalism discourse, and enterprise and transplantation-oriented discourse.

The main tensions identified concerned:

- 1) stakeholder awareness about *P. oceanica* as a species, as a habitat and as a source of natural capital;
- 2) lack of awareness of the efficiency of transplantation techniques;

- 3) lack of transparency of the entire decision process. These last two tensions fueled stakeholders' distrust about the validity of transplantsations as a compensation measure, generating further conflicts;
- 4) conflict between environmental planning and the needs of industrial development;
- 5) complexity of the entire procedural flow of an EIA (more evident in the Civitavecchia-S.Marinella case study).

In general, the governance of *P. oceanica* transplantsations in the four case studies is severely lacking in the principles of innovation, adaptability, inclusiveness, and participation. The information and communication processes were inefficient, and the actions oriented to increase the acceptability of the infrastructural works and of the related compensation measures were extremely deficient. Following the governance analysis, some indicators of “good” governance have been developed and will be published in the relative chapters in the SEPOSSO manual and guidelines.