



ARTEMIS

Interreg
Euro-MED



Co-funded by
the European Union

PRESS RELEASE

ARTEMIS Final Conference Brings Mediterranean Stakeholders Together in Menorca to Advance Seagrass Restoration and Sustainable Blue Finance

Ciutadella, Menorca (Spain), 8–10 June 2026 – The Interreg Euro-MED ARTEMIS project will hold its final conference in Ciutadella, Menorca, from 8 to 10 June 2026, bringing together experts, public authorities, EU representatives, environmental organisations, researchers and businesses from across the Mediterranean region.

The three-day event will showcase the results achieved during the project's 30-month implementation period and foster discussions on the future of seagrass restoration, marine biodiversity conservation and innovative financing mechanisms to support ecosystem restoration at scale.

Hosted primarily at the *Nàutic Club di Ciutadella*, the conference is expected to welcome around 80 participants from eight countries – Spain, France, Greece, Italy, Belgium, Bulgaria, Tunisia and the United Kingdom. Participants will include representatives from public administrations, research institutions, environmental organisations, private companies and professionals involved in ARTEMIS pilot activities throughout the Mediterranean.

The event will also feature the participation of key public authorities and institutions, including the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Natural Environment of the Government of the Balearic Islands, the Menorca Island Council through the Menorca Biosphere Reserve Agency, representatives of the European Commission as well as all the projects partners and associated partners, organisations, foundations, scholars and businesses.

Why Menorca?

Menorca hosts one of the four ARTEMIS pilot sites, making it a fitting location for the project's final conference. Over the past two years, ARTEMIS has organised in-person events across its pilot sites, including Crete (Greece) in March 2025, Monfalcone (Italy) in October 2025 and Sardinia (Italy) in March 2026.

The Menorca pilot site is located in Cala Blanca, an area affected by a bentonite spill in 2010 during the construction of the Ciutadella desalination plant. Through the ARTEMIS project, approximately 1,800 m² of *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass meadow has been restored by project partners IME-OBSAM, with scientific support from IMEDEA-CSIC. The restoration site serves as a practical



ARTEMIS

Interreg
Euro-MED



Co-funded by
the European Union

example of ecosystem recovery and the long-term benefits of investing in marine restoration.

A Programme Focused on Restoration and Investment

The conference programme combines technical sessions, round tables and field visits, offering participants opportunities to exchange experiences and explore innovative approaches to marine ecosystem restoration and management.

8 June – World Oceans Day and Finance for Restoration

The opening day will begin with a closed Financial Research Workshop organised by UNEP/MAP Plan Bleu [Lead Partner of ARTEMIS project]. The workshop will focus on the practical implementation and evaluation of blended finance solutions for Mediterranean sustainability challenges, presenting evidence-based research, innovative financing models and policy recommendations.

The conference coincides with **World Oceans Day**, celebrated globally on 8 June. The United Nations theme for 2026, "*REIMAGINE: Beyond the world we know, a new relationship with our ocean*", calls for a renewed commitment to safeguarding marine ecosystems.

In line with this vision, ARTEMIS will host a public event at **Can Saura in Ciutadella**, highlighting the importance of scaling up investments in seagrass restoration and strengthening society's role in protecting the ocean.

9 June – Science, Policy and Restoration

The second day will focus on technical discussions covering seagrass restoration methodologies, marine biodiversity conservation, policy uptake, environmental governance and investment opportunities for marine ecosystem protection.

Participants will share lessons learned from restoration initiatives across the Mediterranean and discuss how scientific knowledge can be translated into effective management and policy actions.

10 June – Public and Private Action for Nature

The final day will feature two dedicated round tables.

The first will bring together representatives of public administrations to discuss governance frameworks and policy instruments supporting marine restoration.



ARTEMIS

**Interreg
Euro-MED**



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

The second will focus on the role of the private sector in financing nature restoration, with particular attention to seagrass ecosystems. Discussions will explore emerging opportunities linked to carbon and nature credits, as well as mechanisms for attracting private investment into marine conservation projects.

To bring the conference to a close, participants will travel to Fornells Bay, where the Mediterranean's seagrass meadows will provide a living reminder of what ARTEMIS has worked to protect and restore over the past 30 months to strengthen the future of the ocean.