

# A HarmonizEd fRamework to Mitigate coastal EroSion promoting ICZM protocol implementation

**Interreg**   
Balkan-Mediterranean  
HERMES



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## COASTAL AREAS: ASSETS AT RISK

Coastal areas all across the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean are faced with the increasingly complex task of balancing development and managing coastal risks.

Coastal zones constitute the scene of an ever more intense economic activity but are also confronted with the challenge of preserving vulnerable natural resources.

Barcelona convention and its protocols, the ecosystem management approach of the Marine Strategy Framework and all relevant EU policies on coastal zones recognize their dual roles as providers of ecological functions and productive socio-economical assets.

### HERMES: BUILDING RESILIENT COASTAL COMMUNITIES

In this context, HERMES project will use tested scientific expertise to build capacity at the lowest appropriate administrative level (“bottom-up” approach) and thus enhance coastal resilience and strengthen multi-level territorial cooperation among Mediterranean rims to promote joint actions.

This will be achieved with the joint development and implementation of a harmonized methodological framework consisting of:

- coherent ensembles of studies,
- the utilization of existing sophisticated tools (monitoring systems and models),
- the close collaboration between scientists and managers,
- bridging the gap in the science-policy interface, and
- the continuous public and private stakeholders’ involvement.

*Tower of Apollonia, Paggaio Municipality*



## TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

HERMES brings together six Partner organizations from 4 different countries of the Balkan-Med basin. At four carefully-selected study sites, partners will:

- share common standards for coastal and marine dynamics and erosion phenomena evaluation;
- adopt common strategies in coastal monitoring and surveys;
- devise common indicators for coastal management and preservation actions;
- apply common tools for erosion-protection scenario building;
- promote environmental-friendly technologies (‘soft’ techniques) to tackle coastal erosion.

In the four study sites located at in the coastal areas of Paggaio Municipality (Greece), Larnaca (Cyprus), Varna (Bulgaria) and Shkodra (Albania), the HERMES partnership will proceed to conduct an analytical evaluation of the extent and the causes of coastal erosion and will present concrete solutions to the involved local communities.

Workshops and Seminars will train national, regional and local managers on the use of HERMES system.

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

The expected result is the development of models and tools, operating at near-real-time mode, utilizing a network of monitoring stations and promoting public participatory processes supported by web-based applications. This novel toolkit could contribute to change the way coastal erosion is tackled at local level.

HERMES will thus introduce innovative, smart and environmental-friendly technical works for coastal restoration in combination with multi-sectoral, multi-level cooperation rooted in the local context and open to transnational cooperation.

*Shengjin coast in Albania*







## THE HERMES PARTNERSHIP

**Lead Partner**

**Municipality of Paggaio**

<http://www.dimospaggiou.gr>



**Partner 2**

**Democritus University of Thrace, Department of Environmental Engineering, Laboratory of Ecological Engineering & Technology**

<http://www.env.duth.gr/labs/ecological.en.shtml>



**Partner 3**

**ORION-Joint Research and Development Centre**

<http://www.orioncyprus.org/>



**Partner 4**

**Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities**

<http://www.ubbsla.org/en/>



**Partner 5**

**TEULEDA, Local Economic Development Agency**

<http://teuleda.org.al/english/>



**Partner 6**

**Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment**

[www.geo.edu.al](http://www.geo.edu.al)



**Observer Partner**

**Union of Cyprus Municipalities**



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