

The European partners of the Psamides project participate in the international seminar “Greening the cruise and recreational boating sectors in the Mediterranean”

13TH APRIL, SÈTE (FRANCE)

- The [Psamides Project](#) and the Interreg Med Blue Growth Community team up to jointly organise a capitalisation event to highlight key recommendations and showcase concrete solutions developed in the framework of these projects.
- During the event, the main results of these projects will be presented as well as guidelines for a common strategy for a more effective management of tourism flows in the Mediterranean.

On April 13, the nine partners of the **Psamides project and the Blue Growth Community** organise together a capitalisation event with the aim of fostering and supporting the **transition of the maritime transport and cruise sector towards environmental and social sustainability**.

The European project Psamides aims to optimise the operation of **small and medium-sized ports** by implementing **innovative tools** to manage tourist flows, better control costs, offer more services to users and stimulate eco-innovation in these ports by reducing the environmental externalities derived from tourist activity.

Small and medium-sized ports, with their water sports facilities, large yachts, cruise activity and associated tourism industries, are a **key factor of competitiveness in the MED (Mediterranean) area**. They have a fundamental role to play in the articulation of coastal and maritime tourism, linking the hinterland and communities.

Let's set the project in context: maritime transport represents one of the most important activities of the **blue economy for the Mediterranean**. The growth of the **cruise sector** is particularly strong: it is the most important sector of the tourism economy in terms of gross value added and job creation, with cruises in the Mediterranean amounting to more than 4 million passengers in 2018.

The Mediterranean sea is also a popular destination for **recreational boating**. As a source of employment and dynamism in the region, the recreational boating and cruising sectors also have significant **environmental impacts** (e.g. emissions of gases and fine particles, impact on marine fauna and flora, noise and light pollution).

All these elements highlight the need for best practices sharing about sustainability and efficiency, thus leading to this international event, that will take place on 13 April in a hybrid format, in Sète, France. [Download the full programme](#)

All media, stakeholders and public interested in attending the event are invited to book their place by filling in the following [registration form](#)

About the Psamides project:

The European project Psamides aims to optimise the operation of small and medium-sized ports by implementing innovative tools to manage tourist flows, better control costs, offer more services to users and stimulate eco-innovation in these ports by reducing the environmental externalities derived from tourist activity. Psamides has a budget of €2.8 million, 85% of which is funded by the European Union's Interreg-MED programme. The project started in January 2020 and ends in June 2022.

*Amongst other objectives, the project aims to create a **blue growth community** of small and medium-sized ports, taking a transnational approach to ensure that these ports can create an integrated business ecosystem that supports innovation and overcomes current funding and staffing constraints, so that these ports can identify the most effective solutions in each case. Similarly, to improve the governance of blue growth, create an effective multi-level approach and methodology to capitalise on management experiences, which could be replicated in hundreds of ports in the MED area.*

*The project has nine partners: **Ports of the Generalitat de Catalunya, Port of Sète, Port of Candia (Heraklion), Pôle Mer Med, Athena R&I Center, IMT Montenegro, University of Rijeka, SAS Noveltis and the EPM (Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean)**, of which the Generalitat de Catalunya is a founding member together with the Government of the Balearic Islands (ES) and the Occitanie Region (FR).*

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