



PartArt4OW announces the SailingLab Departure Ceremony and Expedition Plan

press release

Rome (Italy), 01.06.2026

The **PartArt4OW SailingLab** is a mobile, transdisciplinary research platform combining navigation, scientific observation, artistic production, and communication. Developed within the [Horizon Europe PartArt4OW project](#), it contributes to reconnecting society with oceans and waters through situated, practice-based explorations. In line with the EU Mission *Restore our Ocean and Waters*, the SailingLab exploration is an activity to reinforce public awareness and ocean literacy through multimedia storytelling and cross-site visibility of results.

Operating across the central-western Mediterranean between 20 June and 28 July, the Sailing Lab visits key coastal sites hosting [PartArt4OW Participatory Art Initiatives \(PAIs\)](#), documenting their activities and the environmental contexts in which they unfold. Funded through PartArt4OW, PAIs explore how creative practices, citizen science, and scientific knowledge can strengthen communities' relationship with the sea, including marginalised groups, fostering care for marine ecosystems.



[ph: Tidal Garden, PosidoniaArtReef, Seatizen Bio-murals]

The [SailingLab](#) acts as both a mobile observatory and connective infrastructure, fostering exchange among activists, artists, scientists, policymakers and citizens while amplifying the visibility of participatory processes through research and multimedia production. The sailing route is also structured as a research transect across key Mediterranean themes drawn from the partners' research strands: the emergences affecting the ocean such as diverse forms of pollution, temperature warming, overexploitation of marine resources;



the governance of coastal commons; the open sea as a space of conflicts; the redefinition of ports as oceanic infrastructures; and the endangered ecologies linking science, mobilisation, and creativity.

With the full support of all PartArt4OW partners, the expedition is led by [Raw-News Visual Production Agency](#), in collaboration with the [CO>SEA research group](#) at [Dip. MEMOTEF - Sapienza University of Rome](#), and operationally managed by [Altura](#) sailing society.

The Sailing Lab Departure Ceremony

On 28 June 2026, the public departure ceremony of the PartArt4OW Sailing Lab takes place at the Lega Navale of Anzio (Rome - Italy), 5 pm. “Fair wind” speeches are delivered by Anzio City Major Aurelio Lo Fazio, the Environmental Policies Deputy Major Luca Brignone, the Culture and Fishery Depute Major Valentina Corrado and the Commander of the Anzio Port Authority, Lieutenant Lorenzo Giovannone. The president of the Lega Navale of Anzio, Alessandro Sciolari and the councillor Alberto Romano. The SailingLab expedition is presented by PartArt4OW coordinators Chiara Certoma’ (Sapienza University of Rome) and Federico Fornaro (Raw-News).

Presentations of cognate research projects are delivered by Luisa Galgani (University of Siena, Italy, External Expert Consultant for the [EU Mission Ocean and Waters](#) and PartArt4OW Ambassador), Arturo Gallia (Roma Tre University, MUR PRIN project [Island for Future](#)), Diana Rinaldi ([OutBe](#) and [ClimateBabes](#)), Viviana Piermattei and Camilla Campanati (CMCC, project [CS-MACHI Marine Citizen Science Data](#)) and Ana Jeinić (TU Wien, project [Komuna Maro](#)).

On the occasion, the SailingLab is equipped with citizen science kit from the Horizon Europe project [CS-MACHI Marine Citizen Science Data](#). Moreover from Anzio to Naples, the Sailing Lab also hosts the exhibition [Komuna Maro](#) and contributes to data collection for the transdisciplinary research project exploring marine infrastructures and ecological transformations through cartography, sailing, and collaborative artistic practices.



PARTART 4OW SAILING LAB
Departure Ceremony

Lega Navale Italiana Anzio
Riviera Zanardelli 26

28 June 2026
5-8 pm

Fair wind salutations

- Aurelio Lo Fazio (Anzio City Major)
- Luca Brignone (Environmental Deputy Major)
- Valentina Corrado (Culture Fishery Depute Major)
- Lorenzo Giovannone (Anzio Port Authority)
- Alessandro Sciolari (President LNI Anzio)
- Alberto Romano (Councillor LNI Anzio)
- Luisa Galgani (University of Siena)
- Arturo Gallia (Roma Tre University)
- Diana Rinaldi (ClimateBabes)
- Viviana Piermattei and Camilla Campanati (CMCC)
- Ana Jeinić (TU Wien)
- Chiara Certoma (Sapienza University of Rome)
- Federico Fornaro (Raw-News)

partart4ow.eu/sailing-lab

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Navigation and exploration news
<https://chiaracertoma.net/sailing-for-research/>

ph. G. Lupinacci/Raw-News

Funded by the European Union

#Emissions #HorizonEU #RestoreOurOceans

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2021-2024 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

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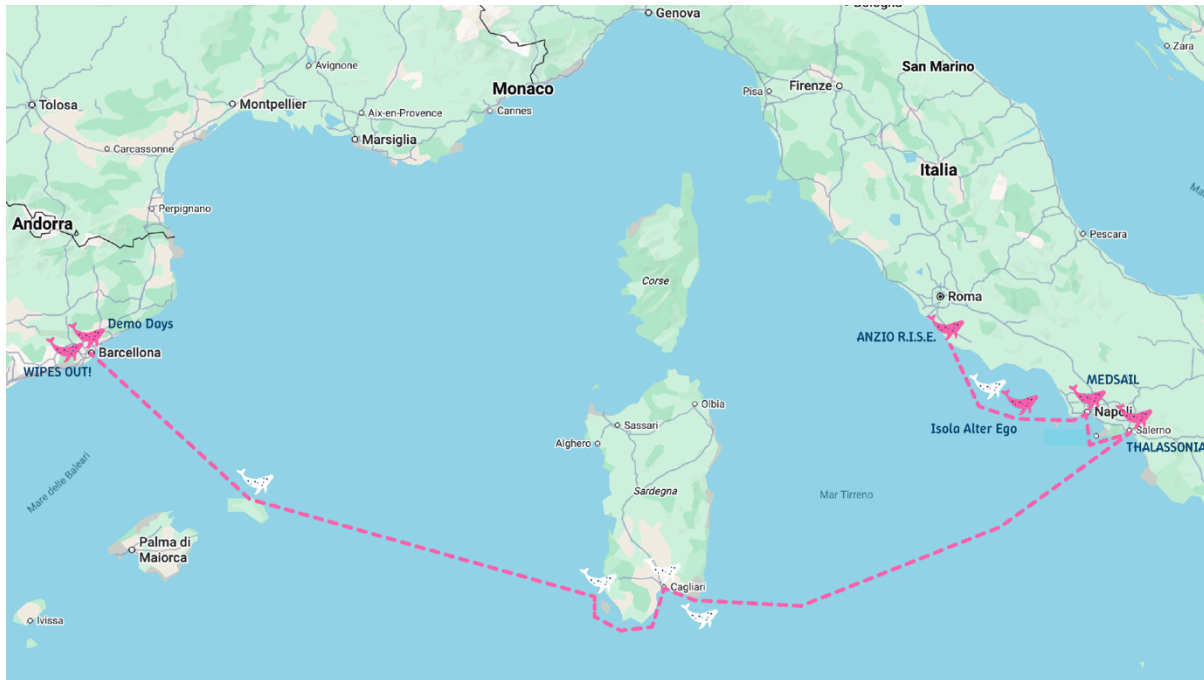
The Expedition Plan

The expedition plan scheduled between 20 June and 29 July is conceived as a multi-stop maritime itinerary across the Western Mediterranean, aimed at documenting the activities of the PartArt4OW PAIs, alongside field research where possible and documentation of major socio-environmental challenges and participatory practices.





At each location where PAIs are being implemented, the Sailing Lab documents local initiatives while presenting outcomes from other PAIs, PartArt4OW consortium activities and cognate projects, fostering cross-fertilisation and improving accessibility of results for local communities.



Map of the Navigation plan indicating the planned stops [graphic C. Pozzobon/Sapienza]

Activities begin in **Anzio on 22 June** with the final event of **“Anzio R.I.S.E.”** (REF). The festival at Porto di Anzio – Molo Innocenziano features participatory art installations made from phased-out EPS fish crates, citizen science activities, and community engagement initiatives such as the digital archive *Raccontaci il Mare* and the campaign *Adotta una Cassetta*, promoting Anzio as a model of coastal resilience linked to the Sailing Lab’s Mediterranean route. Here, critical issues such as coastal erosion, landslides, and marine polystyrene pollution have already revealed visible signs of environmental fragility, and are actively tackled by institutions, fishermen and civic associations.

Moving toward the Pontine Islands, the focus shifts toward the ecological resilience of the marine ecosystem, opening discussions with researchers and local actors on the conflict between natural processes and tourism-driven pressures. The Sailing Lab joins the final festival of **“Isola Alter Ego”** in **Ventotene on 1 July**, featuring a project exhibition and a guided walk presenting both the island’s richness and the environmental challenges it is facing.

Sailing toward the Gulf of Naples further reveals the sea transformed by the high-impact of noisy recreational activities and questions the sustainability of requalification infrastructural projects on the coast, with the support of Stefano De Falco (University of Naples Federico II).



On the **5 and 6 of July**, the Sailing Lab documents the “[MedSail](#)” final festival, a multiple-days public programme including civic activities, exhibitions, performances, thematic talks, walks with experts and local communities, and public interviews, including reflections with the [MarGeoLab – Laboratorio di Geografia del Mare](#), led by Maria Paradiso (University of Naples Federico II).

In Bagnoli, the SailingLab encounters one of the Mediterranean’s most emblematic landscapes of unfinished industrial transition, i.e. the abandoned Italsider steel plant. The area is a symbol of unresolved contamination and contested remediation processes linked to urban redevelopment already investigated by experts of the [EU project LIFE Sedremet](#) led by Donatella De Pascale (Anton Dohrn Zoological Station) and Raffaele Vaccaro (Nisida Environment).



[ph Sveva Ventre/MedSail]

On **8th July**, the Sailing Lab arrives in **Salerno** for the festival organised by the PAI “[Thalassonia](#)”. The event features a live orchestral performance with 16 musicians, preceded by presentations of the undertaken activities, and visual storytelling on the transformation of marine waste into musical instruments. In Salerno, coastal erosion, speculative construction, and unfinished infrastructures expose fragile models of development disconnected from geographical contexts, including the environmental controversy surrounding the Porticciolo di Pastena led by the association “Comitato Giù le mani dal Porticciolo”.

The expedition then undertakes one of its longest crossings, sailing approximately 255 nautical miles toward south-western Sardinia. Crossing the Sardinian Channel, the industrialisation of the open sea itself, transforming the Mediterranean into a highly technologised extraction landscape extending far beyond the coastline, is apparent. In southern Sardinia, strong contrasts emerge between protected ecosystems and luxury tourism infrastructures, and the fragmented landscapes reveal how urbanisation, logistics, and petrochemical industries increasingly compress natural habitats. Further west, the





navigation route reaches Carloforte, an historical area of tuna traps where maritime tradition faces the pressure of industrial fishing.



[ph: Giuseppe Lupinacci/Raw-News]

The final navigation toward Barcelona crosses through one of the Mediterranean cetacean corridors before reaching a radically different model of coastal governance, i.e. the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in Minorca. The journey continues, arriving on **24 July** at the “**Wipes Out!**” festival. Hosted at La Mar d’Activitats in **Barcelona**, the event combines artistic performance, audience dialogue, and discussions with authorities, fishers, and local stakeholders on wet wipe pollution in coastal areas.

On 27–28 July, the vessel sails the final 5 nautical miles to Badalona, where the “**PartArt4OW Second Demo Days**” (REF) conclude with the public presentation of project activities, the exchange of methodologies, and the development of future European collaborations in participatory art, marine sustainability, and Mediterranean cultural cooperation.

Follow the Sailing Lab

- [Expedition Diary](#)
- [Route tracker](#)
- [Streaming](#)
- [PartArt4OW website](#)
- [PartArt4OW youtube](#)

Interested in collaboration? Get in contact with:

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Behind the Sailing Lab

The SailingLab concept has been elaborated by the [CO>SEA](#) team at Sapienza University of Rome in collaboration with Raw-News Visual Production Agency since the first oceanic pollution investigation project in 2023 and has been operationalised in the team activities. The cross-fertilisation with international scholars has been crucial, some of which are visible in the description of [Sailing4Research](#) and the [Sciece+Art+Participation in/about the Ocean](#) informal exchange groups. The Sailing Lab's mode of operation builds on Marine Social Geography and visual documentation in and about the ocean, understood simultaneously as a conceptual and material space through which to reconsider humanity's relationship with evolving ecological systems. As a shared infrastructure for co-creation and observation, the Sailing Lab produces a layered archive of Mediterranean marine cultures, environmental transformations, and participatory artistic practices, bridging research, storytelling, and ocean engagement across places and communities. A key methodological feature is its embedded documentation approach, which follows processes from within, capturing not only final outcomes but also the dynamics of participation, co-creation, and situated artistic practice. Navigation itself becomes a research methodology: travelling slowly across diverse ecological and political landscapes enables the crew to observe and compare the impacts of extraction, industrialisation, overtourism, and climate change on Mediterranean coastal environments.

What is PartArt4OW

PartArt4OW is a *EC Mission Ocean* project, endorsed by the *United Nations Decade of Ocean Science*, that promotes a paradigm change in the relationship between society and oceans and inland waters, supporting their sustainable governance through participatory art and creative processes. The project creates an experimentation space in which artists and creative-sector teams develop intersectoral and participatory projects. Through open calls, a multidisciplinary accelerator, and ecosystem-building initiatives, PartArt4OW supports 19 transectorial and transdisciplinary artistic and creative projects called [Participatory Art Initiatives \(PAIs\)](#) (<https://partart4ow.eu/pais>). These projects foster sustainability, ocean literacy, awareness raising, and maritime resilience by bringing together scientists, creative practitioners, citizens, associations, institutions, and businesses across Europe. Supported initiatives are showcased through public festivals, while the Sailing Lab travels to connect communities to these projects, fostering discovery, dialogue, and shared learning.





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