

## Project background

Operational Programme for support of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund in Croatia has estimated that more than 25000 people are employed in the fishery sector in Croatia.

The development of aquaculture is one of the strategic guidelines of the fisheries sector development in the Republic of Croatia. In the near future the blue economy will lack qualified staff both in Croatia and the EU. Zadar County, as one of the leading Croatian counties, defined the priority areas for aquaculture development by implementing the principles of Integrated Coastal Area Management.

The newly created professional staff must be able to continue the development of fisheries within the principles of sustainability using scientific and interdisciplinary approach. The purpose of the Blue Smart project is promotion and support of the blue economy careers.

THE EU IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST IMPORTER OF FISHERY PRODUCTS, AND 50% OF IMPORTS COME FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

12-17 kg

OF SMALL PELAGIC IS NEEDED FOR FARMING 1 KG OF TUNA IN THE ADRIATIC

61%

WORLD'S FISH STOCKS ARE MAXIMALLY HUNTED

10%

WORLD'S FISH STOCKS CAN BE EXPLOITED MORE

29%

WORLD'S FISH STOCKS ARE OVERFISHED

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# BLUE SMART

BLUE EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF AQUATIC RESOURCES



Co-financed by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

## About the project

BLUE SMART – Blue Education for Sustainable Management of Aquatic Resources is the project with the aim of creating new skills and competences in blue economy sector and increasing the potential employability for current and future employees of this sector in Zadar county.

The project leader is University of Zadar (Department of Ecology, Agronomy and Aquaculture) and partners are Cromaris d.d., Agency for Rural Development of Zadar County (AGRRA) and WWF .



### Project leader:

University of Zadar - Department of Ecology, Agronomy and Aquaculture

### Partners:

Cromaris d.d.  
WWF Adria  
Agency for Rural Development of Zadar County (AGRRA)

**Project duration:** January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

**Budget:** € 399,493.00

## General objective

To create new skills and competences in blue economy sector and increase the potential employability for current and future employees of this sector in Zadar county.



## Specific objectives

- to create conditions for training of a new generation of students and professionals equipped with the appropriate skills to match the needs of the industry
- to provide people already working in the blue sector, or people who intend to work there, with the new skills required.



## Project results

### Establishment of a new graduate study “Sustainable Management of Aquatic Ecosystems”

The planned graduate study will be based on interdisciplinary aquatic ecosystem management with the special emphasis on environmental protection. It is planned to be adapted to part-time students which includes afternoon and weekend lectures. It will enable students to study and work and professionals from other sectors to gain further education.

### Creating an on-line course “Introduction to sustainable fisheries practice”

The development of this innovative on-line course will enable further education of employees in the sector. The course will be open for individuals, companies and institutions. Interested parties will be able to access all course materials divided in modules via an online platform.

