

**PRESS RELEASE
ON THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
"LARGE SCALE RESTORATION OF COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS THROUGH RIVERS
TO SEA CONNECTIVITY - REST-COAST" PROJECT**

The Annual Meeting of the "Large scale RESToration of COASTal ecosystems through rivers to sea connectivity - REST-COAST" project took place on 18-21 October 2022 in Venice, Italy.

As partner of the "REST-COAST" project consortium, the BSEC PERMIS participated in the meeting, represented by Ms. Rositsa STOEVA, the responsible Executive Manager in charge of project management.

The aim of the meeting was to take stock of the first year of the project's implementation stage covering all work packages.

The first day of the meeting was dedicated to a field trip in Venice lagoon (18 October), presenting the specificities of this Pilot site, which is under the UNESCO heritage protection since 1987.

Among the discussed topics was the current status of restoration of the Pilot sites. All nine sites (Wadden Sea, Ebro delta, Venice lagoon, Vistula lagoon, Foros bay, Rhone delta, Sicily coast, Arcachon bay and Nazal Dalia) have been duly presented by the team leaders. Special attention has been paid to the climate risk reduction through innovative restoration approaches. Financial/business plans for restoration upscaling have been also discussed involving national, regional and international financial institutions.

General Assembly and Steering Committee meetings took also place to discuss the work program for the next year. A stakeholders engagement workshop in Istanbul focusing on the Black Sea and creating links with REST-COAST project and other sea-basins has been also touched upon as part of the project's program for 2023.

Around 130 people participated in the meeting. It has been decided that the next Annual meeting will be held in France in 2023.

More detailed information related to the meeting, as well as project itself can be found at: <https://rest-coast.eu/>