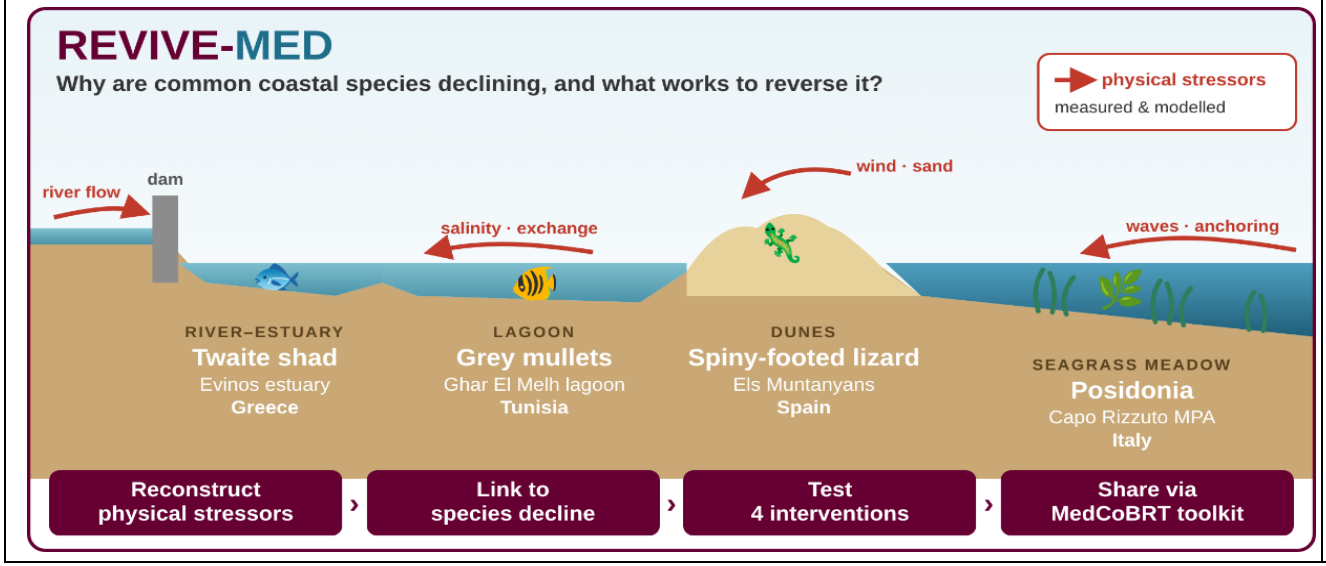
2026	REVIVE-MED: Reversing Biodiversity Decline in Mediterranean Coastal Ecosystems through System-based Interventions						
Country	**Contract value (€)**	**% by Epsilon**	**Staff # provided**	**Client**	**Origin of funding**	**Date (start/end)**	**Consortium Members**
Malta	**2,999,883.61**	7.83% (€235,000)	1 key expert (25 PM)	European Commission	Horizon Europe Cluster 6 RIA, Lump Sum	48 months (start TBC)	NTUA (coord.), FIHAC, UNICAL, CNR, UNIME, EPSILON, UdG, INSTM, SEA GUST, IUCN, GEPEC

The Project

REVIVE-MED (Reversing Biodiversity Decline in Mediterranean Coastal Ecosystems through System-based Interventions) is a 48-month proposal to Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Action (Cluster 6, HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-02). Mediterranean coastal ecosystems are among Europe's most productive and most pressured, and common species are declining for reasons current frameworks can describe but not explain. The proposed project studies four widespread yet declining species, namely twaite shad (Alosa fallax), the grey mullet complex, the spiny-footed lizard (Acanthodactylus erythrurus) and the seagrass Posidonia oceanica, in four case studies: the Evinos Estuary and Messolonghi Lagoon (Greece), the Ghar El Melh Ramsar lagoon (Tunisia), the Els Muntanyans dune system (Catalonia, Spain) and the Capo Rizzuto Marine Protected Area (Calabria, Italy).

Its premise is that the stressors driving decline are physical fields that are rarely measured or modelled as such. Coastal engineering and physical oceanography will reconstruct the conditions each organism experiences, and species response models will link these fields to population outcomes. Physics-informed eDNA inference, with all samples analysed in a single laboratory, will turn detections into quantitative evidence comparable across sites.

The proposed project then acts on its own diagnosis: four co-designed interventions will be evaluated through before-after-control-impact analysis, with costs recorded per statutory indicator and per unit of decline avoided to 2050. Results reach practice through monitoring frameworks handed to the competent authorities and through MedCoBRT, an open decision-support toolkit tested at four secondary sites and applied at three sites.



Services to be provided by EPSILON

EPSILON is the consortium's SME for decision support, dissemination and capacity building, leading the Capacity Building, Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication work packages (WP13–WP15) across all three reporting periods (25 person-months). Its services include:

- **DEC strategy (T13.1):** communication, dissemination and exploitation strategy, project identity, website, media presence and reach indicators, reviewed every reporting period.
- **Capacity building (T13.2):** modular courses and a MOOC on eDNA monitoring, integrated monitoring design, the modelling suite and MedCoBRT, delivered in each case-study region with a train-the-trainer component.
- **Exploitation & sustainability (T13.4):** IPR, ownership, maintenance and funding routes (LIFE, EMFAF, ERDF, CAP) for key results, and hosting of MedCoBRT for five years after the project.
- **EU knowledge ecosystem (T13.5):** cooperation with Biodiversa+, the EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity, GFCM, MedWet and MedPAN, and clustering with sister projects.
- **Cost-effectiveness (T11.2):** lead of the cost-effectiveness and replicability assessment at all four sites, delivering cost per indicator and per unit of decline avoided to 2035 and 2050.
- **MedCoBRT toolkit (T12.2–T12.3):** support to specification, web development and usability testing with non-partner authorities, and integration into EPSILON's EO-analytics and decision-support services.
- **Community engagement (T13.3):** support to citizen science, youth and school activities at the case-study sites.
- **External replication (T12.6):** lead of toolkit application at three non-project Mediterranean sites, including a southern-rim country, and of the Uptake and Upscaling Plan.

Lead deliverables: D11.2, D12.5, D13.1, D14.1, D15.1, D15.2.

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