



## Training on Marine Spatial Planning with Marine Functional Connectivity

The first training activity of Jean Monnet Centre on Sustainable Blue Economy was organised in cooperation with the SeaUnicorn COST Action (CA19107). The training was titled “**Marine spatial planning with marine functional connectivity**”. This training workshop was held in EMUNI University, Piran between 6 and 10 June 2022.

A total of 18 participants representing research institutes, universities, governmental agencies, NGOs and private sector from 14 countries took part a hybrid workshop. The training was led by Dr Maria Beger, Dr Ant Türkmen, and Dominic Münzel.

The objective of the training was to convey knowledge and skills to integrate connectivity into spatial planning, ranging from theory to skill-building on using a decision support tool, **Marxan Connect**. Marxan Connect is a Graphical User Interface enabling the integration of connectivity in the planning of protected area networks. The first day of the workshop presented general concepts of connectivity, conservation and maritime spatial planning and targeted also people engaged in policy, management and broad-scale decision making, who want a background in the issues but do not do technical work. The following 4 days were dedicated to technical skills with analytical aspects of spatial planning.

The training accomplished the targets of building new skills to a variety of stakeholders from across the Mediterranean Region and improving the integration of science-policy-society interactions. The participants also reported on a wonderful time spent in Piran.

