

Working day of the European project Psamides to capitalise on the first results and include them in the partners' port policies

- The partners of the European project Psamides organise a working day to present the results of the implementation of innovative technologies in small and medium-sized ports in the Mediterranean
- The workshop enabled the transfer of knowledge between partners, the creation of common guidelines and the development of a more effective strategy



Participants in the working day.

Within the framework of the [European project Psamides](#), a workshop was organised so that the participating partners, including the public company Ports de la Generalitat, could present the results of the implementation of innovative technologies in the ports and marinas they represent. One of the objectives of the project is the transfer of knowledge and results to the different actors and stakeholders in the European and Mediterranean

area, so that the results of the project can be integrated into the port policies of the participating ports and marinas.

It should also provide guidelines for creating a more efficient and sustainable EU strategy for managing tourist flows. Thus, the first results will be capitalised to create a white paper compiling all the recommendations from the project in order to raise awareness and promote the implementation of new solutions in small and medium-sized ports throughout the Mediterranean and Europe.

The meeting, which took place at the Department of the Vice-Presidency, Digital Policies and Territory in Barcelona, was attended by the Secretary General of the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean, Xavier Bernard-Sans, the Managing Director of Ports of the Generalitat, Pere Vila, and the partners working on this project, among others managers and technicians.

Psamides

Small and medium-sized ports, with their water sports facilities, large yachts, cruise activity and associated tourism industries, are a key factor of competitiveness in the MED (Mediterranean) area. An important part of tourism in the MED area passes through these ports and is concentrated in the coastal areas. These ports have a fundamental role to play in the articulation of coastal and maritime tourism, linking the hinterland and communities.

The European Psamides project aims to optimise the operation of small and medium-sized ports by implementing innovative tools to manage tourist flows, better control costs, offer more services to users and stimulate eco-innovation in these ports by reducing the environmental externalities derived from tourist activity. Psamides has a budget of €2.8 million, 85% of which is funded by the European Union's Interreg-MED programme. The project started in January 2020 and ends in June 2022.

Amongst other objectives, the project aims to create a blue growth community of small and medium-sized ports, taking a transnational approach to ensure that these ports can create an integrated business ecosystem that supports innovation and overcomes current funding and staffing constraints, so that these ports can identify the most effective solutions in each case. Similarly, to improve the governance of blue growth, create an effective multi-level approach and methodology to capitalise on management experiences, which could be replicated in hundreds of ports in the MED area.

The project has nine partners: Ports of the Generalitat de Catalunya, Port of Sète, Port of Candia (Heraklion), Pôle Mer Med, Athena R&I Center, IMT Montenegro, University of Rijeka, SAS Noveltis and the EPM (Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean), of which the Generalitat de Catalunya is a founding member together with the Government of the Balearic Islands (ES) and the Occitanie Region (FR).

14 March 2022