



The **coastal communities** will have a crucial role in the collection of information on the presence of vulnerable species, alien species and plastic waste, becoming real "**Sentinels of the Sea**". In this way, they will create a bridge between the academic world and the community, based on the idea of the *citizen science*, especially involving **new generations**.

SEA MARVEL is an ambitious project focusing on the virtuous behaviour of individuals as a fundamental pillar for the **protection of the marine ecosystem**.

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SEA MARVEL

SEA MARVEL is the acronym of the project “Save, Enhance, Admire Marine Versatile Life”, implemented from 2020 to 2023 and launched within the cross border cooperation framework Interreg Italia-Malta.

The involved partners, the University of Catania and the University of Malta, have started a collaboration aimed at collecting information on biodiversity, in particular, on the presence of **vulnerable species**, on the negative impact of **alien species** and on plastic **pollution** in the stretch of sea between Sicily and Malta.

A particular focus is given to **Natura 2000 sites**,

four of which selected from Sicily and two from Malta.

SEA MARVEL aims at spreading knowledge on the situation of natural resources in the area between Italy and Malta, and at promoting initiatives **to protect the marine biodiversity**. Besides the scientific research carried out by academic researchers, the project includes an awareness programme **to spread information** among all the **local stakeholders** such as fishers, citizens, students, tourists and all the people living next to the sea. The goal is to raise **awareness** on environmental topics and to promote the adoption of **eco-friendly behaviours**.

