

STAKEHOLDER-DRIVEN MSP IN NORTHERN SARDINIA

Shaping and testing a locally-driven approach to MSP solutions

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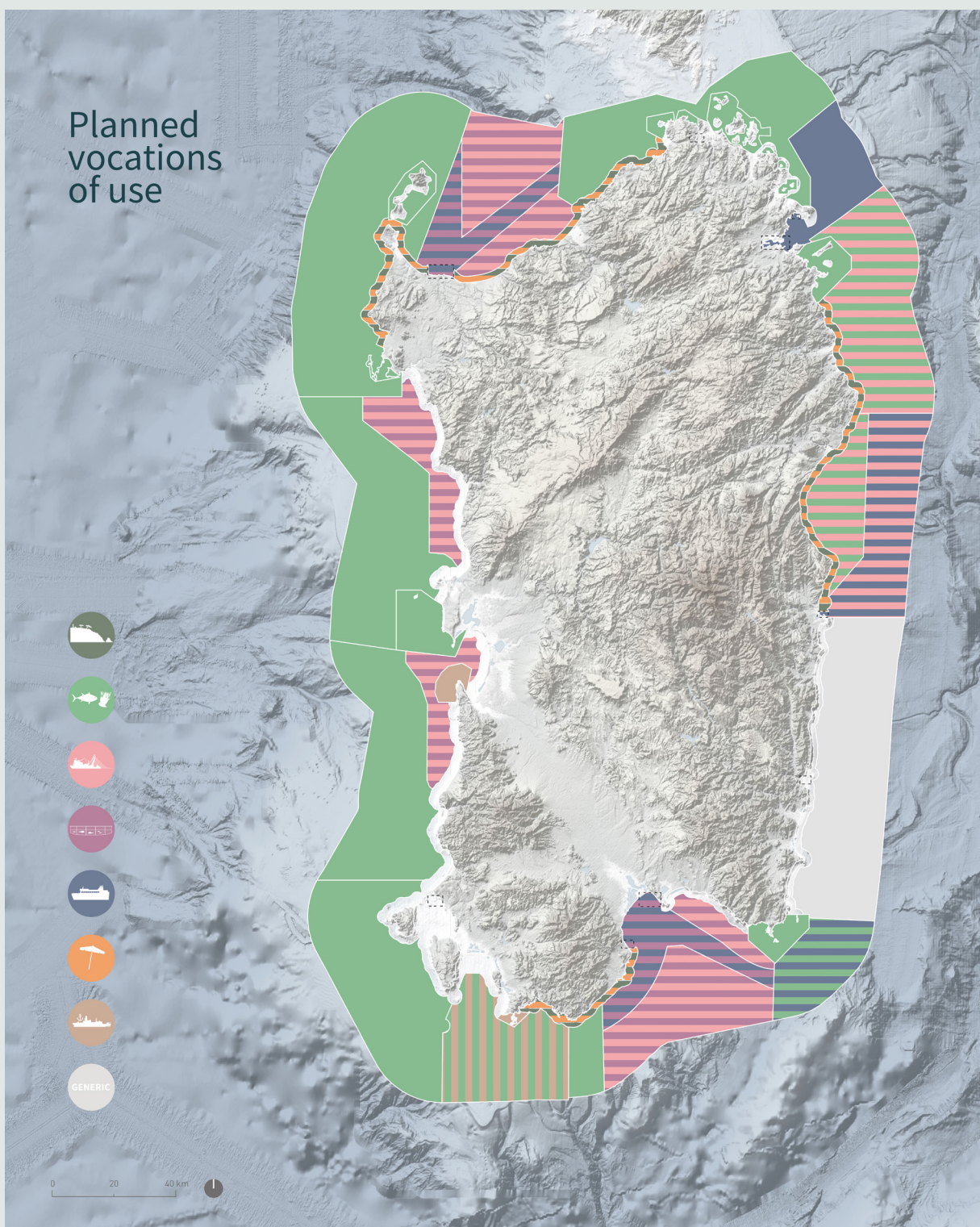
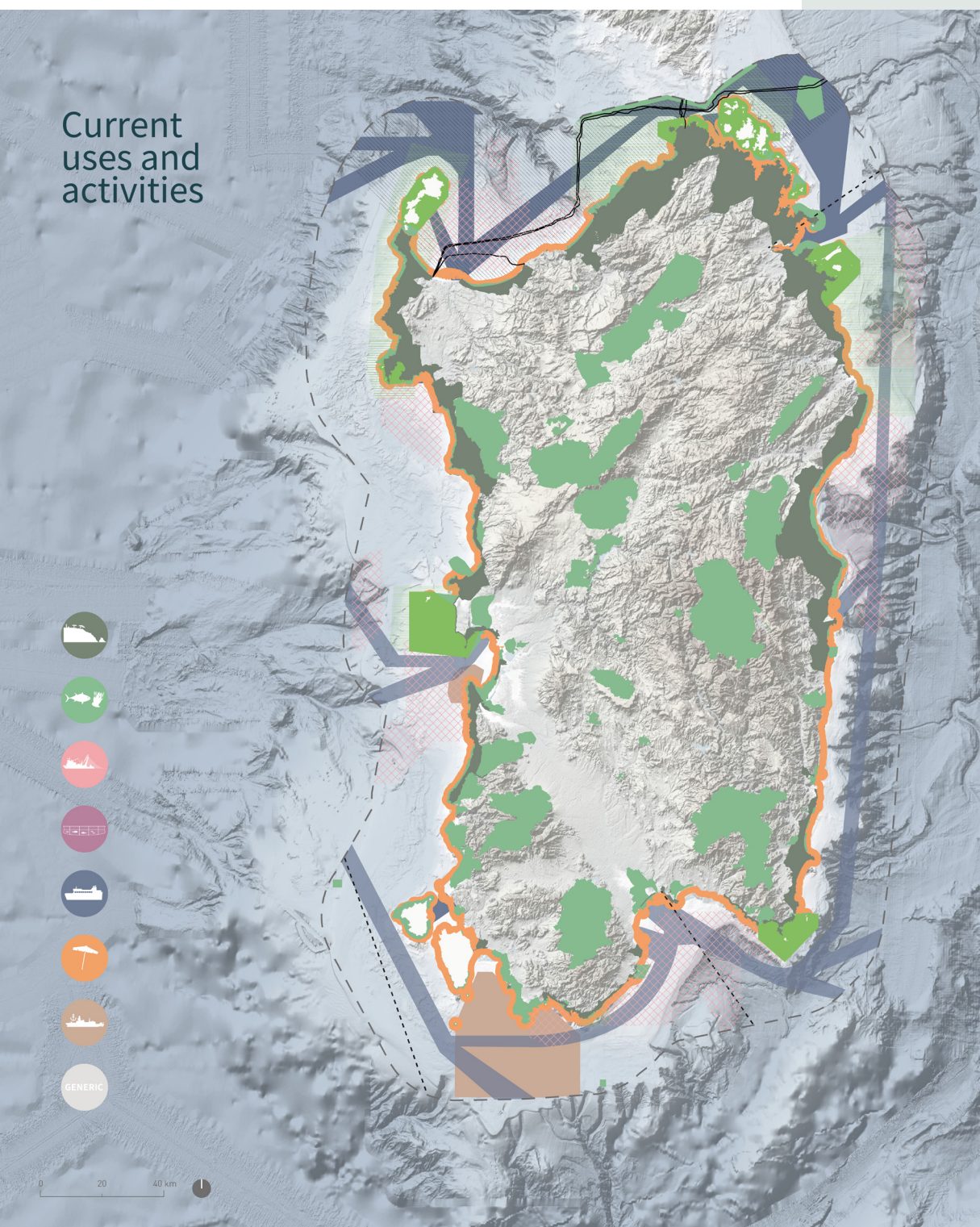
MSP CONTEXT

THE ITALIAN MS PLANS



In September 2024, Italy approved its first National Maritime Spatial Plans (MS Plans), consisting of three distinct plans—one for each of the country's designated maritime areas: the Adriatic, the Ionian - Central Mediterranean, and the Tyrrhenian - Western Mediterranean. By adopting a multi-scalar approach, coastal regional authorities were empowered to proactively develop their MSP strategies within the broader national framework. Despite this significant progress, challenges emerged regarding the participation of local stakeholders, sparking debate about the extent to which this first planning cycle effectively engaged actors at the local scale.

SARDINIA REGION



The Sardinia Autonomous Region is one of the largest islands in both Italy and the Mediterranean. Its strategic location, extensive marine-coastal area, and concentration of biodiversity make it a suitable context for the sustainable development of diverse maritime activities. With more than 1,800 km of mostly protected coastline, Sardinia is a key destination for tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, and maritime transport. The region hosts multiple conservation designations—including MPAs, Natura 2000 sites, and international sanctuaries—while also supporting ports, infrastructure, and commercial routes that position it as a relevant player in both national and European maritime governance.

PILOT CASE WITHIN REGINA-MSP PROJECT

NORTH SARDINIA CASE STUDY

MARITIME ACTIVITIES

The Northern Sardinia maritime area, stretching from the island of Asinara in the west to the Gulf of Olbia in the east, represents a unique interface between maritime activities and conservation priorities. The port of Olbia and of Porto Torres, are key logistical hubs, facilitates both passenger and commercial maritime transport, strengthening the Region's connectivity at the European and international levels. The area is also economically sustained by traditional and small-scale fishing activities, particularly in the Gulf of Asinara, and by aquaculture production of mussels in the Gulf of Olbia.

NATURAL CONSERVATION VALUES

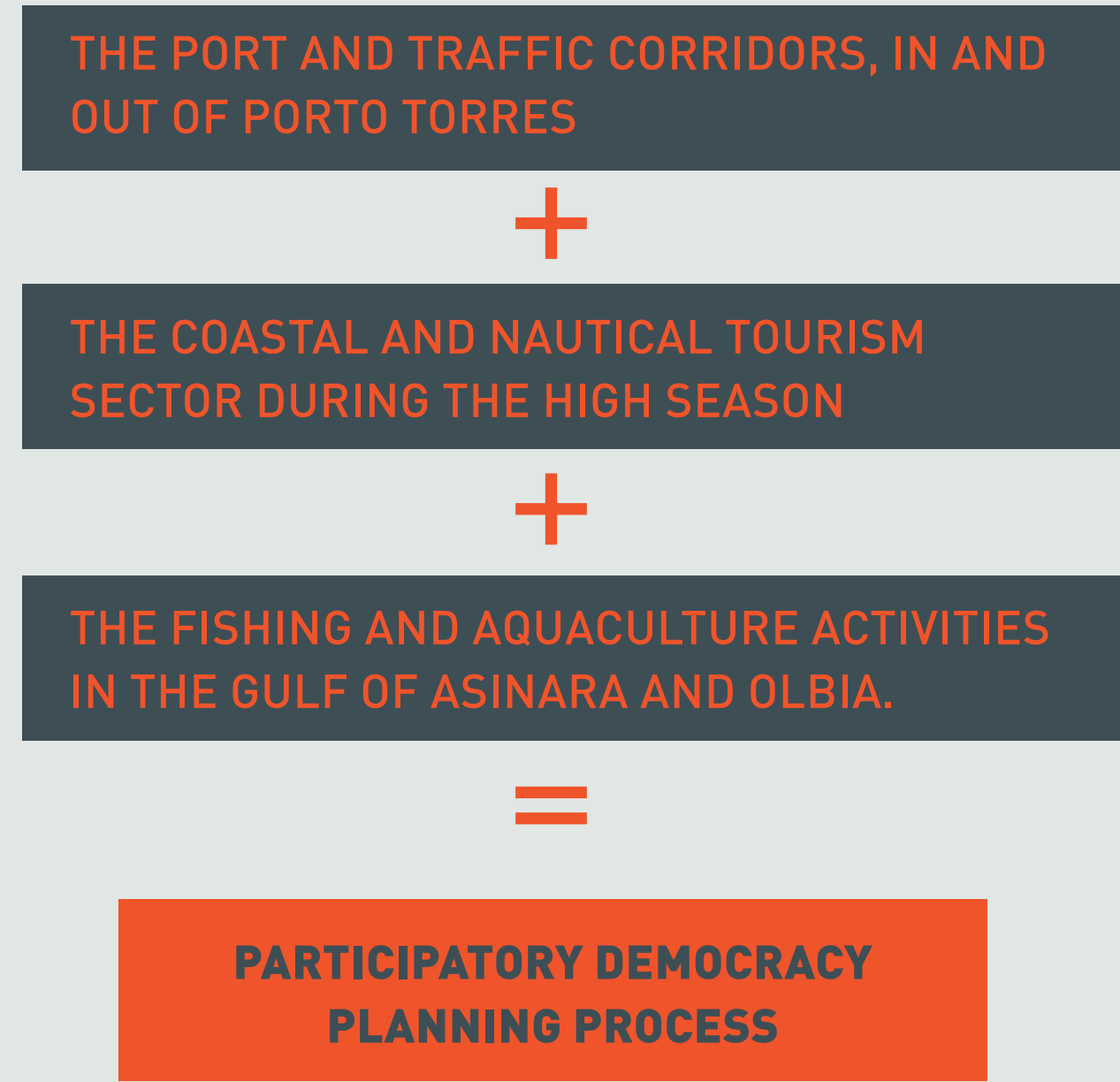
Northern Sardinia hosts a dense network of marine protected areas and conservation regimes. It falls almost entirely within the Pelagos Marine Mammal Sanctuary and is part of international ecological designations such as the Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area (EBSA) "North Western Mediterranean", the Cetacean Critical Habitat, and the Important Marine Mammal Area "Northwestern Mediterranean Sea slope and canyon system". Key protected areas in the region include the Capo Caccia MPA, Asinara National Park and MPA, Capo Testa - Punta Falcone MPA, Tavolara-Punta Coda Cavallo MPA, and the Maddalena Archipelago National Park. The Strait of Bonifacio, located off the northern coast, is recognised as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) by IMO, with vessel pilotage recommended to mitigate environmental risks and protect marine megafauna.



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CONFLICTUAL INTERACTION

The case study focused on the analysis of the interactions between the integrated system of coastal and marine areas subjected to different protection regimes with:



PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

OPERATIONAL PHASES

1 PRELIMINARY WORKSHOPS

Spatial provisions from the Italian MS Plan for the Sardinia Region were presented in two thematic events focused on the Gulfs of Olbia and Asinara. Stakeholders mapped key conflicts and synergies and contributed feedback and local knowledge to enrich the analysis.

2 BILATERAL FOCUSED INTERVIEWS

Through bilateral interviews with relevant stakeholders, this step further detailed the identified conflicts, synergies and needs, ensuring coherence and further verification

3 DRAFTING TARGETED SOLUTION

This step identified potential solutions to address the conflicts, support the synergies and respond to the needs

4 INFORMATIVE AND PREPARATORY EXCHANGE

A preliminary document, including a portfolio of proposed solutions was shared with the stakeholders to set the basis for a conclusive workshop

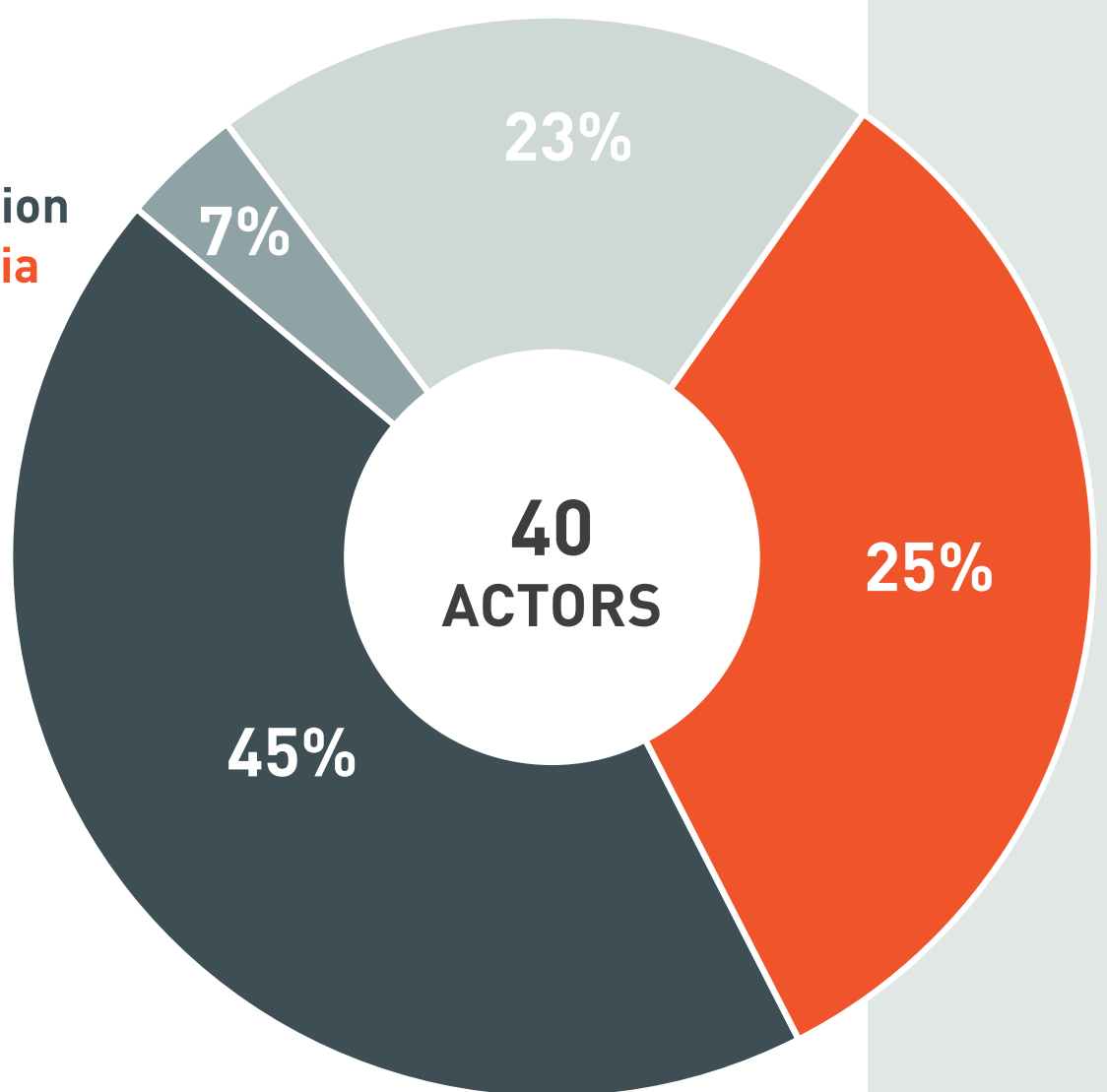
5 CONCLUSIVE WORKSHOP

Conclusive workshop, proposed solutions were presented and discussed with the stakeholders. Interactive tools enabled to collect feedback, suggest modifications, explore additional new solutions, and prioritize solutions based on local urgency, readiness and feasibility

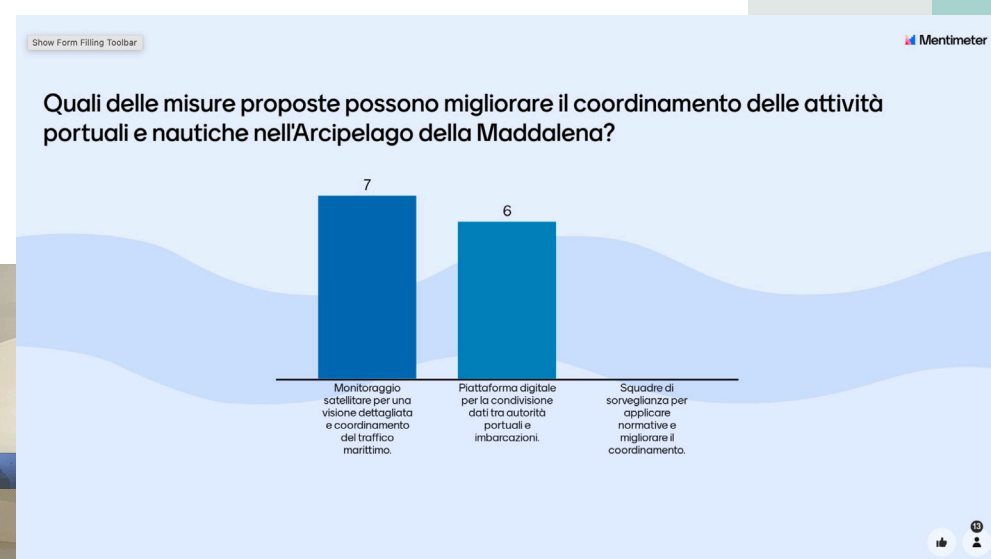
6 FINAL VALIDATION

The results of the second workshop were used to finalise the portfolio of co-created and scientifically-based solutions, that was eventually shared with all stakeholders.

ACTORS & WORKSHOPS



MATERIALS & PICTURES



RESULTS

NEEDS

(IT)DK_01
Collect socio-governance, surveillance and security data, along with information on the spatial and temporal distribution of activities such as small-scale fishing, recreational fishing, and leisure boating.

(IT)SR_01
Develop more detailed planning units (at a higher spatial resolution).

(IT)SC_02
Undertake an environmental impact assessment of maritime activities in critical areas.

(IT)GL_01
Encourage REGIONAL collaboration by considering stakeholders' needs.

ACTIONS

