



Harmonization and Networking for contaminant
assessment in the Ionian and Adriatic Seas

Protocol review on the decommissioning of offshore platforms

Deliverable T1.3.2

Work Package T1 - Sharing best practices for transnational harmonization for EQSD implementation and link with UNEP/MAP MEDPOL Program and Offshore Protocol of Barcelona Convention

Coordinators:

B. Trabucco, C. Virno Lamberti - (ISPRA, Italy)

Contributors:

S. Ceracchi, G. Giorgi, L. Manfra, A. Rotini - (ISPRA, Italy); M. Lipizer (OGS, Italy); S. Matijević (IOF, Croatia); M. Fafandel (RBI, Croatia); S. Papazizimou, A. Aravantinou (RWG, Greece); C. Parinos, C. Zeri (HCMR, Greece); A. Castelli, D. Joksimovic, M. Mitric, (UoM-IMB, Montenegro); B. Cermelj (NIB, Slovenia)

March 2020

How to cite: B. Trabucco, C. Virno Lamberti, S. Ceracchi, G. Giorgi, L. Manfra, A. Rotini - (ISPRA, Italy); M. Lipizer (OGS, Italy); S. Matijević (IOF, Croatia); M. Fafandel (RBI, Croatia); S. Papazizimou, A. Aravantinou (RWG, Greece); C. Parinos, C. Zeri (HCMR, Greece); A. Castelli, D. Joksimovic, M. Mitric, (UoM-IMB, Montenegro); B. Cermelj (NIB, Slovenia) 2020 WPT1 HarmonIA Deliverable T1.3.2 - Protocol review for the decommissioning of offshore platforms doi: 10.6092/af61e959-9dad-4828-abb5-048296c7f11e

- **Introduction**

The deliverable T1.3.2 aims to share a protocol review on the decommissioning of offshore platforms.

Basis on the answers to a specific questionnaire sent to the partners (See Annex attached), an analysis of the legislation and procedures for decommissioning of offshore platforms was carried out at ADRION level, describing commonalities and differences among five countries (Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, and Slovenia).

- **Questionnaires**

Structure of the Questionnaire

A questionnaire was sent in April 2019 to HarmoNIA partners involved from six countries (Albania, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia), with the following remarks for compilation:

- Provide general information about decommissioning legislation at national level.
- Report the authority responsible for offshore platform decommissioning.
- Describe removal and reuse procedures of offshore platforms.

Analysis of results

The institutions that replied to the questionnaire were:

- Rudjer Boskovic Institute (RBI) and Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (IOF), Croatia;
- Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) and Region of Western Greece (RWG), Greece;
- Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) and National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics (OGS), Italy;
- Institute of Marine Biology University of Montenegro - Institute of Marine Biology (UoM-IMB)
- National Institute of Biology (NIB), Slovenia.

Overall, the Questionnaires were completed by 5 out of 6 countries. Comparative analysis on the feedback resulted in the following.

Only three Countries registered platforms in their national waters (125 Italian platforms, 20 Croatian platforms and 3 Grecian). Slovenia and Montenegro have not offshore platforms.

Concerning European countries, Italy, Croatia and Greece have a national decommissioning legislation, transposing specific European Directives (in particular the last Directive 2014/52/UE). Slovenia hasn't got legislation concerning the offshore platform decommissioning. Montenegro also has a specific decommissioning legislation.

Only Italy approved and adopted national guidelines for decommissioning of the offshore platforms and related infrastructures (issued by a decree of the Italian Ministry of Economic Development in agreement with the Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, and Tourism) to ensure the quality and completeness of the assessment of the related environmental impacts. In Greece, a three member committee sets up on the monitoring to restore the environment to its original condition .

Italy and Croatia expected the decommissioning of several offshore structures in the next future. In particular, the decommissioning of at least twenty Italian offshore structures is expected during the next five years.

Only in Italy, the Ministry of Economic Development publishes on its website, every year, the list of platforms to be subjected to decommissioning.

The authorities in charge for the offshore platform removal are:

- Italy: the Ministry of Economic Development, taking into account the opinion of the Port Authority,
- Croatia: Ministry of environment protection and energy and Ministry of the sea, transport and infrastructure,
- Greece: the Ministry of the Environment and Energy in agreement with Hellenic Hydrocarbon Resources Management S.A. (HHRM S.A.),
- Montenegro: the Ministry of Economy of Montenegro - Montenegro Hydrocarbon Administration.

Italy, Greece, Croatia and Montenegro reported that the abandonment of offshore platforms and related infrastructures is forbidden.

In Italy, Greece, Croatia and Montenegro, the companies holder of mining concessions, who intend to remove a platform, must present a removal project to obtain the authorization by the competent Authority. In these Countries the removal project of the platform must include environmental and technical information. In Italy, Greece and Montenegro the project drafting for platform removal includes specific details such as the structures to be decommissioned, the characteristics of the sea area affected, the method of removal, the planning and description of the removal activities and any possible remediation project. For Italy, Croatia, Greece and Montenegro the projects for platform removal is subjected to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures.

Italy, Croatia, Greece and Montenegro provide environmental monitoring during the removal activities. For Italy, Greece and Montenegro, it is mandatory the environmental restoration of the areas affected by the platform removal (at the end of the removal activities).

In Italy, Greece, Croatia and Montenegro, an inspection of the competent Authority, verifies the platform removal, in compliance with the authorized project, and draws up the certification of cessation of mining activity.

Only Italy may authorize partial removal and alternative use of offshore platforms. For the partial removal, the competent Authority is the Ministry of Economic Development,

while for alternative use the competent Authority is identified on the basis of the typology of the reuse.

In Italy and Greece, the Companies interested in re-using of offshore platforms have to submit a preliminary project of reuse to the competent Authority.

In Italy and in Greece the projects for the reuse of offshore platforms are subjected to an EIA. In Croatia, even if there aren't re-using specific provisions in the national regulatory framework, the reuse project should be subjected to EIA.

In Italy, the applicant must request the maritime concession for the occupation and use of the area authorized for platform re-using.

In Italy and Greece, the competent Authority could adopt a negative conclusion of the provision, determining the rejection of the request, if there are one or more dissenting acts, which cannot be overcome.

In Italy, within the re-using projects, an inspection of the competent Authority verifies the platform removal and draws up the certification of cessation of mining activity.

Conclusion

On the basis of the outcomes of the questionnaires, the following commonalities emerge for Croatia, Greece, and Italy:

- have offshore platforms in territorial waters (20 Croatian, 3 Grecian, 125 Italian platforms)
- have a specific decommissioning legislation
- expect the decommissioning of several offshore structures in the near future (Croatia and Italy)

Montenegro and Slovenia haven't got offshore platforms but Montenegro has decommissioning legislation.

Italy and Croatia need to define procedures for the decommissioning of offshore structures shortly and Italy has developed specific guidelines. The abandonment of offshore platforms and related infrastructures is however forbidden for Italy, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro. In these countries the projects for platform removal is subjected to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures. Partial removal and alternative use of offshore platforms can be authorized only in Italy.

Acknowledgments:

We are grateful to V. Vaniček, D. Dobrinić (Croatian Hydrocarbon Agency), J. Jankovic (Environmental Protection Agency – EPA, Montenegro) for sharing useful information with HarmoNIA.