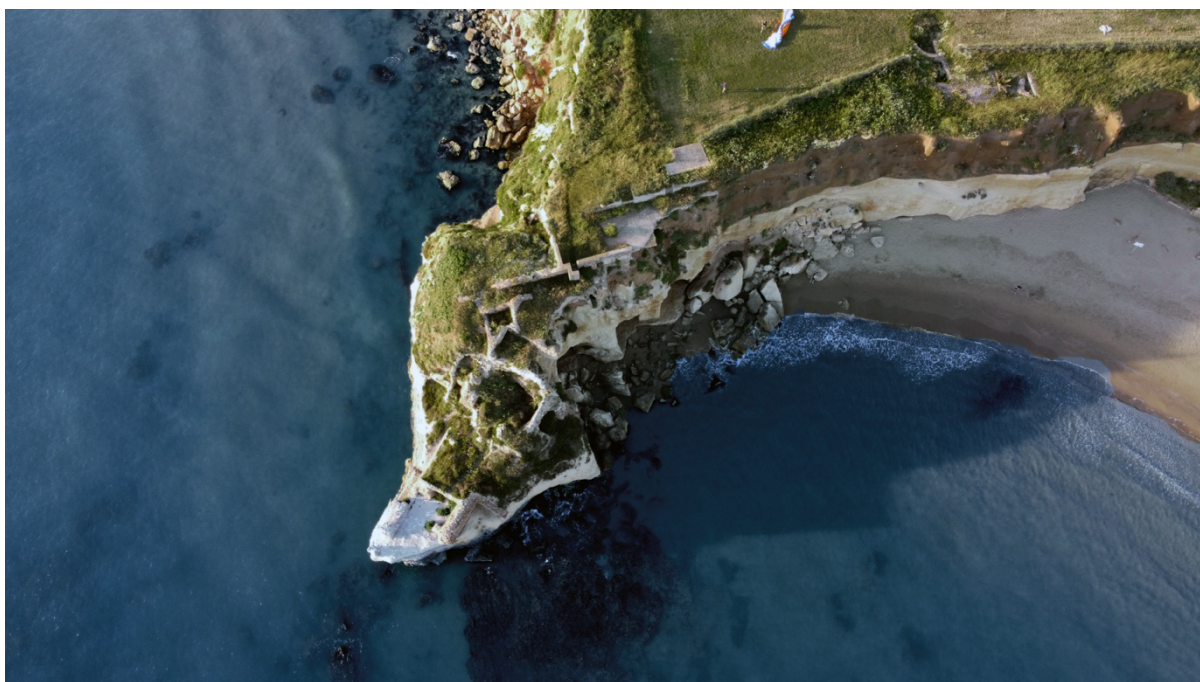




Press Release

The new “Collaboratorium for Socio-Environmental Analysis of the Ocean” of Sapienza University of Rome – Memotef Department, in collaboration with Raw-News, has started its activity with a pilot research in Anzio (Rome)



Into the Sea – Nero's Villa in Anzio [photo G. Lupinacci/Raw-News]

Rome, January 2025 – Starting in February 2025, the *Collaboratorium for Socio-Environmental Analysis of the Ocean* will officially launch, an innovative research initiative led by Sapienza University of Rome – Department of Memotef, in collaboration with the British independent video-documentation company Raw-News. The project is made possible by the prestigious *European Citizen Science Prize 2024 – Diversity and Collaboration Award*.

The *Collaboratorium* aims to develop a dedicated, reproducible, and scalable methodology to investigate the relationship between society and the ocean, with a particular focus on the main socio-environmental issues affecting coastal waters.

The pilot study will focus on the coastal waters of Anzio (Rome, Italy) and will take place over 11 months, from February to December 2025. In collaboration with local institutions and communities (local administrations, seagoing professionals and service providers, environmental, cultural and social associations, local schools, industrial partners, local shops, and tourism services), as well as national and international experts in social and environmental sciences, the research team will carry out interviews with key local stakeholders, field analyses, socio-geographic studies, and video-photographic reports both offshore and underwater. The study will document the most critical environmental emergencies, including plastic pollution in the Gulf of Anzio.

The goal is to explore how societies build their connection to the sea to address environmental challenges, while reinterpreting our shared sense of belonging to the ocean. Specifically, the research will examine how seagoing communities perceive and experience the changing oceans invaded by marine plastic pollution.



Marine plastic pollution in the catch, on the beaches and underwater [photo G. Lupinacci/Raw-News]

The support of the European Citizen Science Prize 2024 and the research team The research is carried out by the team of the European project [SeaPaCS. Participatory science against marine pollution](#), carried out in Anzio in 2023 and funded by the European program [IMPETUS4CS](#)– Horizon Europe, which received in 2024 the prestigious European Union [Citizen Science Prize 2024](#) –[Diversity & Collaboration Award](#), during the International Festival “[Ars, Technology and Society 2024](#)” of the international company ArsElectronica of Linz (Austria).



SeaPaCS microplasti trawling expedition [photo G. Lupinacci/Raw-News]

The research is led by Chiara Certomà, Sapienza University of Rome – Memotef Department, with the collaboration of research assistants Caterina Pozzobon and Luca Bertocci, in partnership with Federico Fornaro, director of the British independent video-documentary company Raw-News, with the collaboration of water photographer Giuseppe Lupinacci. The research activities also include the constant exchange of skills and knowledge with the international network of scholars, activists and institutions, which includes initiatives such as the U.N. Ocean Decade Action, [Marine Social Science Network](#), [SAP&O Science+Art+Participation in&about the Ocean](#), Bremen Ocean World From Outside In, the European project [PartArt4OW](#) and the [TidalArts](#) project.

CO>SEA . A commitment to the future of the oceans

The importance of the multiple interconnected challenges that affect the global ocean – from the increase in water temperature, to tropicalization, from acidification and oxygen loss to various forms of pollution – requires constant commitment. Not only is it essential to document the changes underway, but it is necessary to propose new technical solutions that inspire far-sighted governance interventions.

The CO>SEA project, promoted by the Collaboratorium, aims to strengthen the emotional bond between society and the sea, encouraging an affective and responsible approach to the ocean. Through the adoption of participatory methodologies and visual research, the project aims to redefine the collective commitment to the protection of our global marine heritage.

CO>SEA . Participatory research methods and tools on the Ocean

CO>SEA foresees the consolidation and the operation of an interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international research group through the activities of the Collaboratorium, with the aim of promoting the new field of analysis, defined by the “SeaPaCS” project, of Marine Social Geography and Visual Research. To this end, the project adopts an approach based on Marine Social Sciences and Critical Studies on the Ocean, using participatory and visual action research methods through reportages and video-docs.



Some of the participatory activities of the team: sampling microplastics, open meeting, beachcombing with schools, video-reporting [photo G. Lupinacci/Raw-News]

Furthermore, CO>SEA is starting the experimentation of a Sailing Lab, which allows to equip a sailing boat with a L.A.D.I. (Low-cost Aquatic Debris Instrument) net for the sampling of microplastics, tools for marine socio-visual ethnographic research and a carbon-zero approach to promote ocean literacy and citizenship. The Sailing Lab offers citizens the opportunity to explore and experience ocean research first-hand, work on marine visual documentation and create connections between coastal communities. The vessel is designed to support transdisciplinary research on the ocean and society, combining science, creativity and activism. In the long term, the Sailing Lab aims to become a platform for ocean documentation and research, training weeks with citizens, university students and researchers, interactive workshops and communication and awareness-raising initiatives.

Info and collaboration requests:

- CO>SEA <https://crowdusg.net/seapacs/>
- Sapienza University of Rome –Memotef Dep, Chiara Certomà, chiara.certoma@uniroma1.it, <https://corsidilaurea.uniroma1.it/it/user/46011>
- Raw-News video production agency, <https://www.raw-news.net/>, Info@raw-news.net



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