



University of Rijeka, Faculty of Maritime studies

PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE: Development of a Ballast Water Management System for Preventing the Spread of Invasive Species (acronym: Balast IN)

FUNDING PROGRAMME: Operational Programme Competitiveness and Cohesion 2021-2027 (PK.3.4.17 Strengthening Applied Research for Climate Change Adaptation Measures and Risk Management)

PERSON RESPONSIBLE: prof. Renato Ivče, PhD

FINANCIAL DATA

Total budget	Budget assigned to the Faculty of Maritime studies
588.222,54 €	90.120,05 €
Eligible budget	Project grant
588.222,54 €	90.120,05 €

SUMMARY

The BalastIN project is focused on protecting the Adriatic Sea from the spread of invasive, non-native and potentially harmful organisms transported through ships' ballast water. Global environmental changes further facilitate the survival and expansion of non-indigenous species, increasing risks to biodiversity, human health, and economic sectors such as tourism, fisheries, and mariculture.

The aim of the project is to develop an effective ballast water management system to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful species and to reduce the vulnerability of coastal areas.

Project activities include sampling and biological analysis of ballast water in the ports of Raša, Rijeka and Ploče, modelling of sea currents, analysis of ballast water origin, and the establishment of a virtual laboratory for education and research. The project will also develop protocols for ballast water monitoring and management, identification of present organisms and assessment of their harmfulness, as well as risk analysis of their potential spread.

An interdisciplinary project team composed of experts in ecology, oceanography, microbiology and maritime studies ensures a comprehensive approach to the issue. Special emphasis is placed on stakeholder and public education through workshops and outreach events to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change and the importance of preserving the marine environment.

The results of the BalastIN project will contribute to the long-term protection of marine ecosystems, the preservation of biodiversity, and the safer and more sustainable development of coastal communities.



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Start date	End date
01.04.2026.	31.03.2029.

PARTNERSHIP

Br.	Partner organization	Country	Role
1.	University of Dubrovnik.	Croatia	Lead partner
2.	University of Zagreb, Faculty of Civil Engineering	Croatia	Partner
3.	Ruđer Bošković Institute	Croatia	Partner
4.	University of Rijeka, Faculty of Medicine	Croatia	Partner
5.	Istria County	Croatia	Partner
6.	Primorje-Gorski Kotar County	Croatia	Partner
7.	Dubrovnik-Neretva County	Croatia	Partner
8.	University of Rijeka, Faculty of Maritime Studies	Croatia	Partner

WEBSITE: /



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA
Ministarstvo zaštite okoliša
i zelene tranzicije



Financira
Europska unija

ADDITIONAL INFO:

Project team members:

- Prof. dr. sc. Renato Ivče, PhD
- Prof. dr. sc. Đani Mohović, PhD
- Prof. dr. sc. Dario Ogrizović, PhD
- Antonio Blažina, MSc.