



"Circular Economy and Blue Growth: sustainable and circular ports"

Ports have always been frontier areas, nodes of networks for the exchange of goods and people, production and industrial sites, places of defence and starting points for visionary enterprises, interconnection spaces between marine and coastal ecosystems and anthropogenic infrastructures. They will continue to be and will play a leading role in various areas: the energy transition towards clean navigation, the challenge of efficient and integrated resource management; the theme of the waterfront and the recovery of vast abandoned port areas aimed at strengthening the relationship between city and port; the digitalization of transport and the interoperability of information systems throughout the logistics chain; sustainable management, production and processing of products from the fish supply chain; the big cruise ship tourism sector; the role of interface between the areas of application of the Green Economy and Blue Growth and, last but not least, the issue of climate change, for which port areas must take action both in terms of mitigation and adaptation.

In this context, the ENEA Department for Sustainability has understood the strategic potential of the port areas and has developed a project, centred on the port of La Spezia, which proposes a sustainable and circular development model for an attractive, resilient and competitive territory.

The project employs an integrated and circular approach in the management of resources that tends to the configuration of a closed system, with the maximum enhancement of scraps and waste with a view to creating new products, business and skills for the maintenance of the value chain in the territory. In this configuration the anthropogenic activities and infrastructures are integrated with the dynamics of the natural environment with a view to enhancing the landscape and conserving the natural capital, reducing the costs associated with the management of environmental risks and simultaneously providing a boost to the city production system in terms of attractiveness.

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