

Milestone 3 – Comprehensive Mapping, Data Collection, and Exercises

Milestone 3 was achieved through a **structured, collaborative, and evidence-based approach** aimed at mapping the current state of the Western Slovenian maritime innovation ecosystem and collecting the necessary data to support subsequent strategic development. This process was coordinated by the relevant INNO2MARE partners within the project framework, under the activities defined in Work Package 2 – Cross-border Joint R&I Strategy.

To ensure inclusiveness and representation, targeted data collection activities and interactive exercises were organized, engaging a diverse range of stakeholders. These included representatives from academia, industry, public administration, start-ups, and technology developers. The engagement process allowed participants to share their perspectives on the current ecosystem, highlight strengths, identify challenges, and articulate emerging needs and opportunities.

The data collection process combined desk research, surveys, interviews, and participatory workshops, producing rich qualitative and quantitative insights. All information was systematically transcribed, coded, and analyzed to identify patterns, strengths, and priority areas for innovation and collaboration.

The outcomes of these activities were consolidated into a comprehensive mapping report, which now serves as a critical foundation for the following **gap analysis (Milestone 4)** and the design of the **cross-border R&I strategy**. Through Milestone 3, INNO2MARE has built a strong knowledge base and fostered stakeholder engagement, paving the way for targeted actions that will strengthen innovation capacities and enhance sustainability in the Adriatic maritime sector.