

Training School “Introduction to Marxan with emphasis on connectivity”

Dates: 7th to 9th of May 2018 (3 days)

Place: Lesvos Island, Greece – University of the Aegean, Department of Marine Sciences, University Hill, Mytilene

Trainers: Silvia Carvalho, Virgilio Hermoso and Sylvaine Giakoumi.

Objectives: This three-day training school aims to teach participants how to apply the principles of systematic conservation planning using software Marxan. Marxan is the most widely used decision support tool for conservation planning globally. Developed by Ian Ball and Hugh Possingham from the University of Queensland, Australia, Marxan supports spatial prioritization by producing transparent and repeatable results. It is commonly used for the design of networks of protected areas in the marine, terrestrial, and freshwater environments. Since WG4 focuses on integrated conservation planning across the marine, terrestrial and freshwater realms, emphasis will be given on how to incorporate connectivity issues into Marxan. The training school will be a mixture of lectures and hand-on tutorials. Lectures and material provided will be in English.

Participants: Maximum 12 participants. Preference will be given to participants that are developing case studies and apply cross-realm conservation planning within MarCons context. However, other motivated participants will be considered. All participants must have basic knowledge of QGIS software. The software is freely available at <https://qgis.org/en/site/forusers/download.html>. The participants are expected to bring their own laptop with QGIS software already installed.

The deadline for application submission is the 10th of March 2018.

Expected outcomes: Trainees will learn how to successfully use Marxan to solve spatial conservation planning problems.

Applications: To apply for the training school please send an email to Sylvaine Giakoumi (s.giakoumi@uq.edu.au), Silvia Carvalho (silviacarvalho@cibio.up.pt), and Virgilio Hermoso (virgilio.hermoso@gmail.com) explaining your motivation for participating and whether you intend to run a case study contributing to D1.2 of WG4 or WG1.

Financial support of trainees: Marcons will offer a grant to support trainees who will be attending the Training school. Training grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to the Training school but are rather a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses. The maximum amount attributed to each trainee is 600 €.