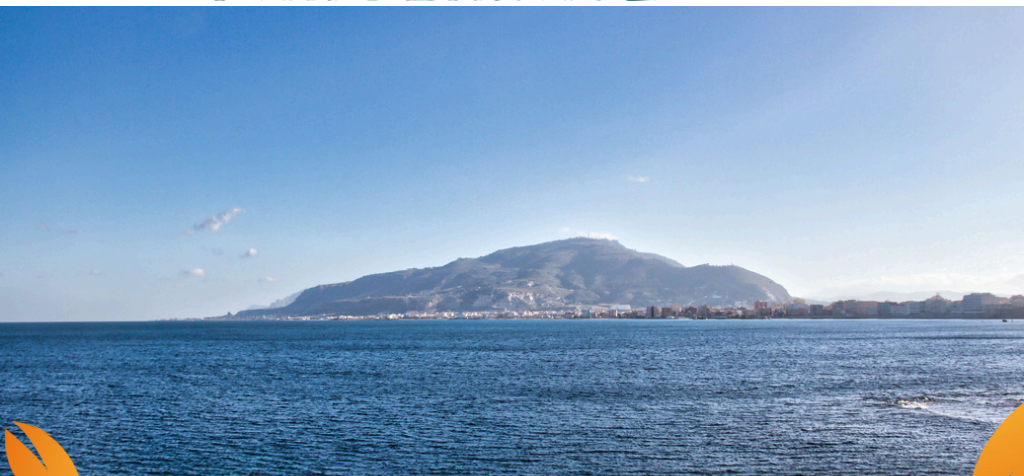




Organisation: COSVAP

Sector: Fisheries

Location: Sicily, Italy



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The FARCLIMATE Living Lab in Sicily addresses the increasing challenges affecting Mediterranean coastal and fishing communities, where small-scale fisheries, biodiversity, and local economies are under pressure from climate change, warming seas, invasive species, declining traditional fish stocks, and the digital divide within the sector. These challenges are particularly relevant in coastal areas with a strong dependence on fisheries and tourism, where ancient seafaring traditions coexist with the urgent need for ecological transition and new sustainable business models.

The Living Lab aims to establish a sustainable maritime ecosystem in Sicily that can serve as a Mediterranean model for blue growth. Its work focuses on bringing together fishermen, marine researchers, public authorities, technology providers, training actors, and coastal communities to co-design and validate practical solutions for climate-resilient fisheries. These include AI-driven maritime monitoring, sustainable gear innovation, improved resource management, and climate-smart fishing practices adapted to the needs and realities of artisanal fishermen.

Operating as a collaborative innovation environment, the Sicilian Living Lab promotes dialogue between scientific knowledge and the practical experience of fishing communities. Through co-creation workshops, stakeholder panels, awareness campaigns, professional training, and maritime networking, the initiative seeks to empower fishermen, improve competitiveness, reduce environmental impacts, and support a fair ecological transition. By connecting digital innovation, biodiversity protection, sustainable fishing practices, and regional maritime policies, the Living Lab contributes to building a more resilient blue economy for Sicily and the wider Mediterranean region.