



**sun**ce

**Work report**

January 1, 2024 –  
December 31, 2024

Pursuant to Article 45. of the Statute of the Association for Nature, Environment, and Sustainable Development *Sunce* (CLASS: UP/I-230-02/23-0001/0811, Registry Number: 2181/1-12-01/03-24-0005, 09/02/2024), at the Assembly meeting held on April 15, 2025, the annual *Work Report of the Association for Nature, Environment, and Sustainable Development Sunce* for 2024 was adopted.

## **Work report**

January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

### **Association for Nature, Environment, and Sustainable Development Sunce**

(Short name: Sunce)

Obala hrvatskog narodnog preporoda 7/III, HR – 21000 Split

#### *DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT*

1998

#### *TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS*

454

#### *TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE MEMBERS*

34

#### *VISION OF THE ASSOCIATION*

Croatia is a country of preserved natural values, the sea and coast, and local communities whose development is based on the principles of sustainability and circular economy.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

In 2024, the process of harmonizing the new organizational structure established at the end of 2023 continued. The year was also marked by the elections for the newly established Executive and Supervisory Boards. The new structure has led to greater stability and resilience of the organization and improved efficiency of operations. This was particularly evident during staff turnover caused by job transitions or longer absences, which occurred during the year.



Figure 1: Team Sunce, Sunce Archive

We continued our systematic work within national and international networks, contributing to networking, exchange of knowledge and experience, and joint action on topics related to environmental protection, but also to civil society in general. Cooperation with the Green Forum Network has been particularly prominent in the activities of joint participation in individual public consultations and working groups for the preparation of various strategic documents and legislative acts (see Chapter 2.5). With the participation of the representative of Sunce in the Council for Civil Society Development, which is also supported by the Green Forum, we tried to influence the re-strengthening of the role of the Council in creating a stimulating environment for the work and activities of civil society organizations, including environmental ones.

Within the Nature Conservation Department, most of the projects and activities were focused on the topics of Posidonia protection, threats related to the impact of nautical tourism and anchoring, and marine pollution with wastewater. Within the framework of the Interreg Italy–Croatia EFFICIENTN2K project, an *Institutional and Legal Framework Analysis of Existing Capacities in Protected Areas in Croatia* was developed as a basis for further advocacy activities aimed at the conservation of protected areas and ecological network areas, especially those in the sea.

In parallel with the implementation of the campaign And Where Do You Anchor? ("A di se ti sidriš?") the project application Posidonia for LIFE was being prepared, aimed at the conservation of Posidonia. During the preparation of the project, we had several meetings with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition, the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, and the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure. With the initiative to prepare the project in cooperation with different sectors, we have included this topic in the agenda of the relevant authorities and ensured cross-sectoral cooperation. Campaign And Where Do You Anchor? influenced the increase in the number of reports related to marine pollution to the Green Phone of the association, and it was these activities and topics that recorded the greatest coverage in the media. After three years of advocacy to the City of Split for the organization of public events without single-use plastic, the communication campaign Together Without Plastic influenced the introduction of reusable cups at Split's Advent 2024. Thus, we have finally succeeded in advocacy efforts to implement the first priority in waste management, i.e. to *reduce waste generation* at the level of the city of Split. As part of the AWASTER project, we have prepared two reports/analyses—the *Regional Waste Management Report for the Split–Dalmatia County* and the *Regional Secondary Market Report for the Split–Dalmatia County*. These reports serve us in advocacy activities aimed at improving waste management systems and promoting sustainable policies in cooperation with various stakeholders.

The positive trend of strengthening relationships and communication with members and volunteers, who are an additional support to Sunce's advocacy efforts, continued. The number of volunteers increased, as well as the number of volunteer hours, and at the end of the year, Sunce's first volunteer club, SoleSTerra, was founded. The involvement of young people was additionally carried out by organizing service-learning programs and professional practice in Sunce for students of Split faculties, who contributed to the betterment of the local community in as many as 652 hours of service. There was also an increase in communication activities compared to 2023, which was certainly the result of a larger number of projects, but also of the establishment of the Communication and Advocacy Department and the employment of two people as communication assistants. All this has also contributed to a better organization of communication and advocacy activities of other departments.

In the field of environmental law, we have finally received a summons for a preliminary hearing for the strategic lawsuit initiated in 2023—a lawsuit for the protection of collective interests due to the failure of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development to implement the rehabilitation of the factory surroundings of the former ferroalloy factory in Dugi Rat. After a summons was sent to March, the preliminary hearing was postponed to July 2025, which further indicates the slowness of the judicial system. Although there was no EIA/assessment of the need for EIA procedures procedure in which we participated during the year, significant engagement was focused on advocating for their improvement, especially as part of the activities of the Green Forum network.

The following chapters include an overview of the achievements of strategic objectives indicators, an overview of participation in public policies, a list of projects and services, an overview of activities related to organizational objectives and development, and the financial report of Sunce. A detailed overview of the activities and results of programs and departments, as well as parts of organizational development, can be found in the expanded version of the report for 2024.

We regularly publish information about activities on the official website of Sunce (<https://sunce-st.org/en/>) and official Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn profiles, as well as on websites and social networks created as part of individual projects.

## 2. RESULTS BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2021–2026

### 2.1. Strategic Objective 1: Contribution to the Establishment of a Sustainable Waste Management System on Land and Sea

During 2024, intensive work continued on projects, services, and initiatives aimed at reducing waste, improving sustainable waste management, and strengthening the awareness and capacity of local communities, with a special emphasis on the problem of marine litter and reducing plastic pollution.

As part of the Marine Litter Free Dalmatian Island project, the role of local communities in active contributing to solving the problem of marine litter was strengthened. Cooperation with associations and educational institutions has been established and three agreements have been signed on the cooperation in the collection of data from cleaning actions and the implementation of continuous monitoring actions on Brač and Korčula. As part of the information campaign, a short educational video about marine litter was made, which was shown in several Croatian cities on public digital screens. We also continued with the implementation of the project From River to the Sea—Let's Be Plastic Free, a part of which were trainings for international volunteers and diving cleaning actions held in Omiš, after which the participants identified the amount and composition of the collected waste.

In April, we started the implementation of the Plastic-Free Croatian Island project, funded by the Dalmatian Islands Environment Foundation (DIEF), with funds received from the Conservation Collective through a partnership with Depeche Mode & Hublot. This project aims to reduce the use of single-use plastics and their impact on coastal ecosystems. As part of the project, cleaning actions were organized on Dugi Otok and workshops were held with representatives of local government, utility companies, and protected areas. In cooperation with the Municipality and public institutions for protected areas, a legal framework has been set that will try to limit the use of plastic in protected areas in the coming period.

In the first quarter of 2024, as many as three cross-border cooperation projects, Interreg Italy–Croatia, related to the topic of waste, began. The AWASTER—Adopting WASTE as Resource project emphasizes the importance of the circular economy through the implementation of education and cross-border knowledge exchange. Within the project, two regional reports on waste management and the secondary market were prepared for the Split–Dalmatia County, while workshops for educators and the business sector enabled the development of concrete plans for the implementation of sustainable practices. The WASTEREDUCE project has a similar focus, which is aimed at improving waste management in protected areas and Natura 2000 areas. In cooperation with partners, operational and communication plans for the project were developed, and field research was carried out, which included surveying visitors and monitoring waste on Sakarun Beach on Dugi Otok.

In the FishNoWaste project, special emphasis was placed on the problem of waste in the sea and waste in fishing ports. In cooperation with partners from Italy and Croatia, a cross-border educational program for students and the fishing sector was developed, with the aim of reducing waste and applying innovative solutions in waste management in fishing ports.

In addition to project activities, public forums were held during the year for the local population of the municipality of Orebić and the city of Trogir. In Trogir, a public forum for citizens and workshops for

children were organized, while in Orebić, education on proper waste management was held, with an emphasis on home composting for children and adults. As part of these initiatives, an information and educational brochure was created, which provides guidelines for sustainable waste management in households.

In partnership with Biotherm and Garnier, we organized two cleaning actions and education on environmentally responsible business and environmental protection. These activities have contributed to the development and strengthening of cooperation with the business sector.

We continued to advocate for the reduction of the use of single-use plastics and the promotion of sustainable practices in the organization of public events, and with the Together Without Plastic campaign, we raised public awareness of the negative effects of single-use plastics and encouraged restaurateurs and citizens to use reusable products. Thus, after several years of persistent advocacy to the City of Split and the organizers of public events, we have achieved success that at Advent in Split, for the first time, reusable plastic cups were used for certain types of beverages as a replacement for disposable ones. All implemented activities have enabled concrete steps towards reducing waste and raising awareness of the importance of responsible behavior towards the environment.

We actively monitored and participated in the work of the international networks Seas at Risk and EEB. Also, we participated in additional 13 national and international events of various organizations in order to gain knowledge and follow trends in the topic of environmental protection. We also participated in some of these events as exhibitors, sharing our knowledge and experience.



Figure 2: Photographs covering Strategic Objective 1, Sunce Archive

(A – a clean-up action on Dugi otok as part of the Plastic-Free Croatian Island project; B - surveying visitors and monitoring waste on Sakarun beach on Dugi otok as part of the Plastic-Free Croatian Island and WASTEREDUCE projects; C – field education of students of the Braća Radić High School, visit to the Association of Chefs from Mediterranean and European Regions (ACMER); D – Public event within the Split Biking Tour)

## 2.2. Strategic objective 2: Increased Level of Environmentally Responsible Behavior of Wider Public and Target Groups

During 2024, emphasis was placed on the implementation of educational programs for children of preschool and primary school age, as well as for representatives of educational institutions. An educational program for educational staff of primary schools in Split–Dalmatia County has been designed and initiated: VolonTERRA—Active Schools Initiate Changes. In addition, programs for educators were implemented: Responsible Waste Management (as part of the service for kindergarten Kadujica) and Communication that Empowers Children (as part of the project A Journey towards Environmental Awareness, funded by the Ministry of Science, Education, and Youth).

Educational programs designed and implemented for children and young people were: Small Steps for a Sustainable Society (Ministry of Science, Education, and Youth), Marine Litter Free Adriatic Sea—Education for Active Youth Participation (Interreg ML-FREE), Biodiversity Preservation (Interreg VERA), Seagrass Posidonia and the Benefits of No-Fishing Zones (Public Institution Sea and Karst). In 2024, the educational program 4R—Clean Seas through Removal, Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling of Marine Litter (Interreg FishNoWaste) was designed and its implementation began. Furthermore, the educational program Career for Green, Digital, and Sustainable Tourism was improved and implemented within the homonymous project co-financed by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports.

Throughout the year, a total of 14 different educational activities were carried out for more than 670 participants, which included children in kindergartens Kadujica, Orebić, and Sunce; elementary school students from Hvar Elementary School, Orebić Elementary School, Ostrog Elementary School, Lećeveica Elementary School, Manuš Elementary School, Kamešnica Elementary School, Dobri Elementary School, Pučišća Elementary School, and Master Radovan Elementary School; and high school students from Braća Radić Secondary School, Ivan Lucić Secondary School, and Split School of Economics and Administration. As part of the ESS volunteer's personal project, an activity for Macedonian high school students was also organized.

In 2024, more than 830 citizens gathered at our public events. The following public events have been organized: ŠIZIKA—sewing, patchwork, and creative activities (five sewing workshops), Quizos (four pub quizzes), Exchange Fair (11 fairs that have been held since 2022), I'm Playing to Protect The Sea (a public event as part of the ML-FREE project and organized by students of the School of Economics and Administration Split and the Marco Polo Liceo Artistico Venezia High School), The 13th Split Biking Tour, the exhibition Waste Visible from the Windows ("S ponistre se vidi otpad") and workshops for citizens within the framework of cooperation with IKEA.

More than 870 adult citizens gathered at the events of other organizers in which we participated, including 620 children and young people who participated in our activities within these events. These are the Festival of Maritime Culture organized by Hanza Media and tourist boards (4 events), the Mobility Festival organized by ESN Split, the Festival of Volunteering and Solidarity organized by the Mi Association, the festival Split for Children organized by the homonymous organizer.

Cooperation with the faculties of Split continued: the University Department of Marine Studies (SOSM), the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FFST) and the Faculty of Law (PFST) through teaching bases, and the Faculty of Economics (EFST), where Sunce has the status of a receiving organization for performing additional professional practice for students. At the end of 2024, based on the concluded contract, Sunce became the teaching base for the Faculty of Science in Split (PMFST). A total of 12 students (two with FFST, eight with EFST, and two with SOSM) were involved in the internship activities or service-learning internships and collected 652 hours of engagement. In addition, we presented teaching bases at PMFST, EFST, and FFST for a total of 49 students.

The implementation of a longitudinal survey of environmental awareness of high school graduates also continued. In 2024, a survey of high school graduates was conducted in a total of ten out of 16 planned schools. The continuation of the survey and the processing of the results will be completed in 2025, with the participation of FFST students and teachers.

At the end of the year, a competition for new ESS volunteers was conducted and, in accordance with the Strategic Plan and the restriction according to the quality label, three volunteers were selected, two from Macedonia and one from France. The total number of volunteer hours by both international and local volunteers in 2024 was 4575.

In 2024, employees of the Department of Education and Information participated in the activities of the GOOD initiative, mostly those related to the improvement of the non-formal education system, as well as in the activities of the Croatian Youth Network and in the work of the stakeholder group within the University of Split project, SEA EU.

A larger number of projects brought more content for publication on websites and social networks. Continuous activities, campaigns, a proactive approach to communication with journalists, and regular sending of press releases have contributed to the recognition of the association, which has caused greater media interest in the topics we deal with. The employment of two assistants in the Communication and Advocacy Department certainly contributed to communication. A total of 307 texts and articles about Sunce's work, topics, activities, and projects, and the opinions of the association were published in the public media (compared to 256 in 2023, this is an increase of 19.9%). A total of 150 texts have been published on Sunce's website, of which 127 have been translated into English. At the end of 2024, Sunce had a total number of 15,625 followers across social networks, of which the official Facebook page had 12,788, Instagram 2067, LinkedIn 602, and YouTube 168 followers (an increase from the total of 14,727 followers in the previous year; when Sunce had 12,587 followers on its official Facebook page, 1734 followers on Instagram, and 406 followers on LinkedIn). There were a total of 980 posts, which is an increase of 38% compared to 2023.

In order to continue to influence the availability of information that contributes to environmentally responsible behavior and business conduct, four communication and one advocacy campaign were conducted in 2024. As a quality label organization, we participated in the information and communication campaign SKOCKANO, which was carried out on social networks. The campaign was carried out by the Center for Peace Studies, the Center for Civic Initiatives Poreč, the Forum for Freedom in Education, the Human Rights House, and the GOOD initiative (of which we are a member), and Sunce broadcast the entire campaign to increase its reach and visibility. As part of the Career for Green, Digital, and Sustainable Tourism project, co-financed by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, we continued the Sustainable Tourism campaign.

We traditionally conducted a communication campaign for the 13th Split Biking Tour, an event that promotes sustainable mobility and the importance of cycling as an environmentally friendly mode of transport. With this engagement, we have further raised citizens' awareness of the necessity of reducing the use of motor vehicles and encouraged a discussion on better conditions for cyclists in Split.

On the official digital channels, we also conducted the Creative Fridays information campaign, which took place from April to December 2024. The goal of this campaign was to inspire followers, especially parents, and children, to develop creativity with various DIY projects and at the same time learn about environmental protection, nature, and sustainable development.



Figure 3: Photographs covering Strategic Objective 2, Sunce Archive

(A – ŠIZIKA; B – educational program with teachers and employees of primary schools from Split and the surrounding area as part of the VolonTERRA project; C – study trip as part of the VERA project; D – educational program Biodiversity Preservation)

## 2.3. Strategic Objective 3: Increased Impact of Sunce on Public Policies and Case Law in the Field of Nature and Environment Protection and Sustainable Development

In total, we participated in ten consultations related to the topic of environmental and nature protection and consultations important for the work of civil society. Summaries of the impact assessment of participation in public consultations are provided in Annex 2.5. Public Consultations. We continued to ensure the impact on public policies by participating in working groups, as well as in the creation of local

and national strategic documents and legislative acts. An overview of participation and results by individual working groups can be found in Annex 2.5. Working Groups.

In total, we published ten opinions in 2024, seven of which were presented in the media, mostly on portals. The opinions concerned the following topics: the announcement of a new environmental impact assessment procedure for the Lečevica WMC, the recycling of biowaste and composting in the Split–Dalmatia County, the adoption of the EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, the adoption of the *Anchorage Arrangement Plan of the Split-Dalmatia County*, invasive species in the Adriatic Sea, the adoption of the Marjan Forest Park Management Plan, public events without single-use plastics, the right of access to environmental information and the case of Split's North Port, pollution of the Adriatic with wastewater and a system of control of surveillance in protected areas.

Two advocacy campaigns were also conducted: *And Where Do You Anchor?* and *Together Without Plastic*, described in Chapter 2.1. and 2.4. The advocacy campaign *And Where Do You Anchor?* has led to a significant increase in the number of reports of marine pollution during the summer, which is why a new category dedicated to sea issues has been added to the Green Phone cases. However, despite the increased number of complaints from Sunce to the inspectors of the maritime domain of the competent port captaincies, the captaincies as an organizational unit of the Ministry of the Sea, Transport, and Infrastructure have completely disregarded their inspection monitoring, which in practice prevents the implementation of the Maritime Domain and Seaports Act.

Despite the lack of capacity due to the departure of a lawyer and the process of finding a new person to work on the Green Phone, we continued to cooperate with citizens, civic initiatives, and networks of associations. Locally, support was provided in the use of legal tools in environmental protection to smaller CSOs and civic initiatives for various cases, and within the limited possibilities of Sunce during 2024.

During the year, there were no Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and assessment of the need for EIA procedures, as well as Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA), in which we were actively involved. Nevertheless, in cooperation with the member associations of the Green Forum, we continued to advocate for the improvement of EIA/ assessment of need for EIA procedures and, together with the members of the Green Forum, we participated in the public consultation for the *Action Plan for Strengthening Efficiency in Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures* (see Chapter 2.5), but, unfortunately, without much success. At the end of 2024, we received a summons for a preparatory hearing to be held in July 2025 for the strategic litigation initiated in 2023—a lawsuit for the protection of collective interests due to the failure of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development to implement the remediation of the surroundings of the former ferroalloy factory in Dugi Rat.

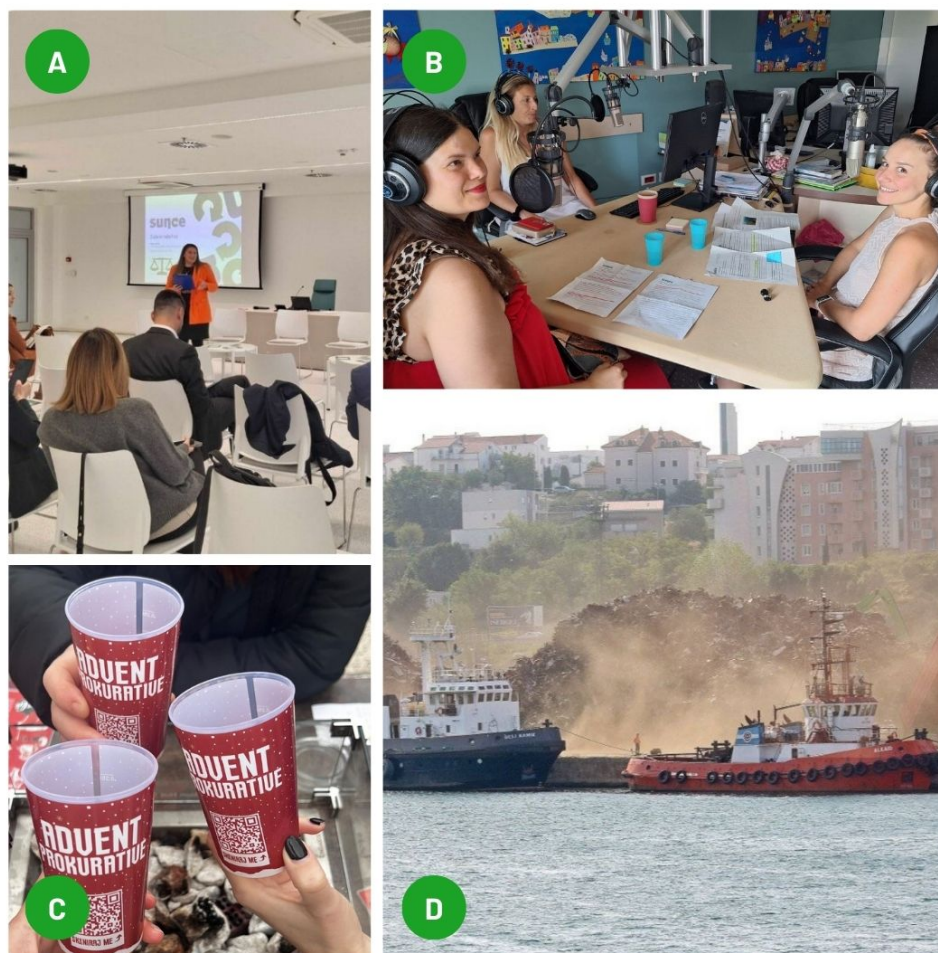


Figure 4: Photographs covering Strategic Objective 3, Sunce archive

(A – panel Business Sector for a Sustainable Split, organized as part of the Green Phone-Lend Your Voice to the Environment II project; B – guest appearance on Radio Sunce in a show financed as part of the DesirMED project, *Sunny Frequency* and a conversation about the campaign *And Where Do You Anchor?*; C – the use of reusable cups at the Split Advent, which is the result of the long-term advocacy campaign of Sunce called *Together Without Plastic*; D – the case of the Green Phone on air pollution in the area of the North Port of Split)

## 2.4. Strategic Objective 4: Contribution to Increasing the Efficiency of Nature Protection Sector with a Focus on Marine Ecosystems Conservation

In 2024, the emphasis was on work related to strengthening the effectiveness of surveillance in marine protected areas and the ecological network, which included the issues of illegal fishing, anchoring, and discharge of wastewater from ships. As part of the Interreg Italy–Croatia EFFICIENTN2K project, we worked on the analysis of the legislative framework and institutional capacities for supervision and the development of recommendations for improving the system of protection in the field and the treatment of crimes against nature. We included stakeholders in order to identify weaknesses and challenges in the system and develop recommendations, for which we used a consultation process and organized workshops. The main findings of this comprehensive analysis were presented during the event

Surveillance and Enforcement for the Effectiveness of Marine Protected/Natura 2000 Areas in the Adriatic Sea–Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process in the Marine Regions–Networking Event, which we organized in Split with the support of the European Commission (DG Environment), as one of the networking events within the EU Natura 2000 biogeographical process. As part of the project, we organized four cross-border trainings to strengthen the capacities of public authorities responsible for conducting surveillance in protected and Natura 2000 areas (Split/Croatia, Ugento/Italy). We also organized two joint actions to monitor marine Natura 2000 areas (Zlatni rat on Brač and Šćedro), with the aim of informing boaters about the importance of Posidonia meadows and the impacts of anchoring. The actions were organized in cooperation with the Public Institution Sea and Karst ("More i krš"), Split–Dalmatia County, the Municipality of Bol (with the active participation of employees of the company Grabov rat), the Port Authority of Split—Branch Office of Hvar and the association Friends of the Island Šćedro. These local actions, aimed primarily at raising awareness of the importance of Posidonia meadows, have proven to be extremely important and necessary in order to act preventively and to work on reducing the negative impact of nautical tourism through networking and cooperation of competent institutions. Both actions were well covered in the media and on social networks and had an extremely positive response from the public. We designed and implemented a communication campaign *And Where Do You Anchor?* in order to better inform the public about sustainable practices at sea, environmentally friendly anchorages, seagrass meadows, strict protection zones, legal obligations at sea, and so forth.

We also participated in the panel discussion on *The Anchorage Arrangement Plan of the Split-Dalmatia County*. We joined the newly established Working Group for Advocating Ecological Anchorages with the ultimate goal of preserving the settlements of the strictly protected seagrass Posidonia and the Working Group for Monitoring (Croatian Marine Protected Areas Network).

We continued our advocacy activities for the designation of new protected areas at sea. The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition has committed to declare the areas we have proposed for bird conservation within the LIFE Artina project part of the national ecological network. For the Public Institution Sea and Karst, we made an Expert Basis for Changing the Boundaries of the Pakleni Islands Significant Landscape with the extension of protection to the sea and the protection of the western sea part of the archipelago in the category of a special reserve. We actively participated in the work of the Island Committee of the Pakleni Islands. We also followed the procedure related to the proclamation of a special reserve in the sea in the area of Stupišće (island of Vis), whose expert basis for the proclamation we created in 2023. We participated in The 3rd Biogeographical Seminar for the Mediterranean and Black Sea Marine Biogeographical Regions in France, whose primary goal was to monitor the progress of member states in the context of the commitments made under the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), with a special emphasis on achieving the goal of protecting 30% of the seas under national jurisdiction.

We also emphasized the need for new areas of strict protection in the public consultation for the Programme of Measures for the Protection and Management of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Area of the Republic of Croatia until 2027 and the Consultation on the Proposal of Nature Conservation Goals of the Republic of Croatia Contributing to the Implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. We also participated in the public consultation for the draft *Management Plan of the Marjan Forest Park 2024–2033*, as well as in a workshop for stakeholders for the development of the zoning of this area. An analysis of the impact of these consultations is presented in Chapter 2.5.

For the Public Institution Lokrum Reserve, we worked on the preparation of the *Management Plan for the Special Forest Vegetation Reserve Lokrum Island and the Ecological Network Area HR400017 Lokrum*, and at the end of the year we presented it at a workshop for stakeholders. For this public institution, we have developed and tested a plan for monitoring the condition of Posidonia meadows and reefs for the area of the ecological network HR400017 Lokrum, as well as a plan for monitoring and managing pressures on the marine habitats of this area. We presented the results in Dubrovnik, at the final

conference of the international project Interreg HABI, within which the research was conducted. We also conducted an educational training program for local divers to monitor the condition of the habitat type 1120 of the Posidonia beds.

We presented the experiences and results of monitoring the condition of Posidonia meadows, which we have been conducting for many years in protected areas, in Italy, at the 2024 World Seagrass Conference & 15th International Seagrass Biology Workshop.

In March and April, we started the implementation of two standard projects within the Interreg Italy–Croatia cross-border program: Interreg BIOPRESSADRIA—Cross-border Integrated Strategy to Reduce Biodiversity Loss Due to Anthropogenic Pressures along the Adriatic Coast and Interreg ASPEH—Adriatic SPECies and Habitats of coastal areas. Both projects deal with the analysis of pressures on key Adriatic species and habitats and the identification and testing of solutions in cooperation with stakeholders. One of the habitats that the projects deal with includes Posidonia meadows and the emphasis is on their conservation. Project activities focused on establishing project management, distribution of tasks and responsibilities among partners, planning activities, and conducting initial analyses.

We actively participated in eight events of the international networks Seas at Risk, Mediterranean Posidonia Network, and BioNET. We participated in an additional 15 events of various national and international organizations in order to get to know the trends in nature conservation better. At as many as 10 events, we had presentations, panels, and posters, which helped us share our experiences.

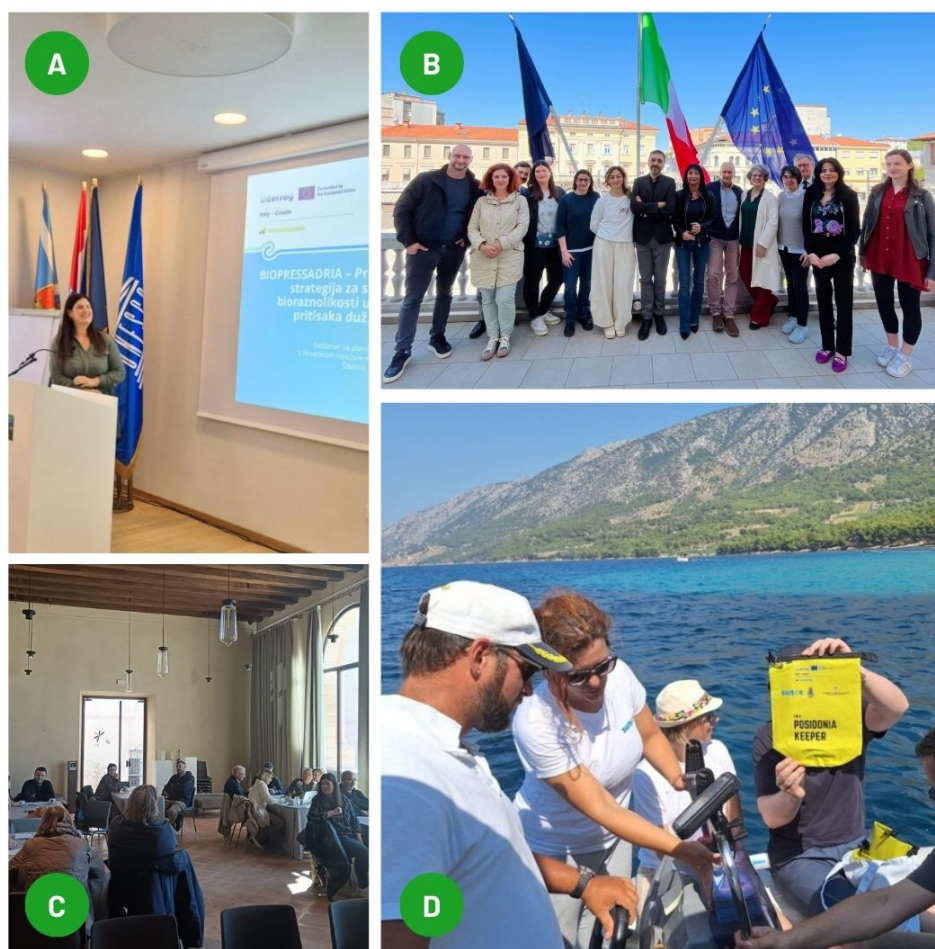


Figure 5: Photos from events covering Strategic Objective 4, Sunce archive

(A – participation in the meeting of the Croatian Marine Protected Areas Network; B – start of the BIOPRESSADRIA project (kick-off conference in Monfalcone); C – active participation in the work of the

Island Committee of Pakleni Islands; D - Joint action for the surveillance of the marine Natura 2000 area, Zlatni rat, as part of the project EFFICIENTN2K)

## 2.5. Annex: List of Participation in Public Policymaking

### Public consultations

Participation in public consultations and working groups, media advocacy and promotion of opinions to target groups and the general public is an important segment of our activity and runs through **all four goals of the Strategic Plan**. In doing so, we are focused on policies related to the protection of the environment, nature, sustainable development, but also those on policies that can affect the work and activities of civil society organizations.

In 2024, by participating in several consultations, the shortcomings of the *e-Savjetovanja* ("e-Consultations") portal and the need for its improvement were again noticed. This is related to transparency and use, i.e. navigation of the portal, for example, the disabling of comments on individual articles, unclear explanations for acceptance, partial acceptance or non-acceptance of certain comments in reports on consultations, frequent use of superficial explanations "acknowledged". Documents placed on the consultation portal, as well as documents in Word and PDF formats, are often not coordinated, which further complicates quality public participation. Furthermore, the reports on the consultations carried out are often delayed and the final versions of the documents with the included accepted comments on the portal are not uploaded. With the termination of the Central State Office for the Development of Digital Society, its tasks were taken over by the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration, and Digital Transformation, which is now responsible for this platform. Thus, from 2024, only selected representatives can access the platform through the *e-Građani* ("e-Citizens") system. Also, the competent Ministry has not ensured the functioning of the system as there are numerous technical problems that make it difficult for users to easily access and comment, including the extremely poor transparency of both the documents and the comments of other entities involved in the consultation. It is absurd that the platform has the possibility of adaptation for visually impaired people and people with dyslexia, while even people without these difficulties have problems using the standard version. Most of the comments are still not taken into account. Despite these shortcomings, we continued to analyze the impact of our participation in individual public debates during the year, and the results are set out below. Consultations at the local level continued to be carried out on the websites of competent institutions, such as the consultation for the *Draft Management Plan of the Marjan Forest Park 2024–2033*. The previously observed trend of tacitly ceasing the work of working groups continued in 2024. This is the case, for example, with the Partnership Council for the development and implementation of the Strategy of the City of Split for 2030, as well as the working group for the development of the *National Strategy for the Creation of an Enabling Environment for the Civil Society Development from 2021 to 2027*, which has practically ceased its work and the Plan has not yet been adopted. The Working Group

on Marine Protected Areas and Fisheries Restricted Areas was established on February 1, 2022, by The Ministry of Agriculture and the Directorate of Fisheries, and representatives of Sunce were also appointed to it. The working group has not met once since its establishment and we believe that it no longer exists.

Below is an overview of the consultations and summaries of our impact assessment for those consultations where it was possible to do so.

## Strategic Objective 1

During the year, two *e-Savjetovanja* consultations potentially relevant to this strategic objective were conducted, however, due to the lack of capacity at the time of their implementation, we were unable to participate. These are amendments to the Waste Management Act and amendments to the Regulation on the fee for returnable packaging.

### **Analysis of the 2022 consultation**

- **Regulation on Packaging and Waste Packaging, Single-Use Plastic Products, and Fishing Gear Containing Plastic**

Using the *e-Savjetovanja* portal, we participated in the public debate in the period from November 10 to December 10, 2022. The holder of the document was the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. Although the publication of the report on the consultation was on January 10, 2023, the Regulation was adopted under pressure from the EU, as well as environmental associations, only on November 15, 2023, when the report from the consultation was published.

Given that the Regulation has been in the works for almost two years, and in 2021 the Ministry formed a working group and a committee for the drafting of the Regulation on Packaging and the SUP Directive—in the work of which we also participated—we expected a clearer and more orderly document. However, a large part of the comments of Sunce and other participants in the public debate were related to the structure and quality of the document presented at the public consultation.

Regarding the thematic remarks, as well as the work in the working group, we suggested changes through *e-Savjetovanja* portal that would lead to a greater impact in the implementation of the priority "reduce waste generation", greater use of reusable solutions, better educational events, and the informing of the public. Out of our 43 comments, five of them were accepted. Significant was the acceptance of the proposal to amend the producer's obligation related to informing the end user, whereby the obligation was also accepted to inform about waste reduction measures and the possibilities of reuse (Article 16 of the Regulation).

## Strategic Objective 2

- **Draft of Key Elements of the Call for Proposals for the Civil Society Program of the Second Swiss Contribution for Strengthening the Contribution of CSOs to Education for Sustainable Development**

From November 7 to December 6, 2024, we participated in a public consultation on the Draft Key Elements of the Call for Proposals for the Civil Society Program of the Second Swiss Contribution for Strengthening the Contribution of Civil Society Organisations to Education for Sustainable Development. The holder of this document is the Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, and the consultation was carried out on the *e-Savjetovanja* platform. Sunce's comments, with several additions from Zelena Istra and the Ecological Association Krka Knin, were supported by the Green Forum. Some of the comments were sent through the representative of Sunce and the Green Forum at the Council session, and when the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme was presented on November 27, 2024, most of the comments were partially or fully accepted. Accepted and partially accepted comments were related to the addition of objectives, the name of the call, the need to put emphasis on education, encouraging the active participation of young people and changing behavior, the use of terminology, the possibility of partnerships, supplementing the indicators with educators of institutions, the need to present the project selection criteria within the public consultation, the introduction of priority criteria for associations that have many years of experience in working with educational institutions or a quality label, a clearer explanation of the indicators related to the planned platform for the exchange of knowledge and experience of the Office for Cooperation with NGOs. The comment asking for the possibility of co-financing the project through volunteer hours was not accepted.

## Strategic Objective 3

- ***Ombudswoman's Report for 2023***

At the invitation of the Ombudswoman at the very beginning of 2024, we submitted data for the purpose of drafting the *Ombudswoman's Report for 2023*. Unfortunately, problems related to the right to a healthy environment persist year after year, and we supplement each report with current examples that we've come across in our work. We highlighted violations of the right of access to information, the right to public participation, and the right of access to justice. In addition, we pointed out the obstacles in our work, especially those related to the lack of funding for advocacy activities of associations, delays in ESF tenders, and problems in financing the work of environmental civil society organizations. As an important problem that further contributes to the destabilization of the civil sector, we pointed out the lack of adoption of the *National Strategy for the Creation of an Enabling Environment for the Civil Society Development from 2024 to 2030*.

- ***Action Plan for Strengthening Efficiency in Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures***

The holder of this document is the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition. Using the *e-Savjetovanja* portal, we participated in a public debate from September 26 to October 26, 2024, with the member associations of the Green Forum. In addition to Sunce, Zelena akcija, DOOR, Hyla, Zelena Istra, Eko Pan, Brod Ecological Society, Biom Association, Eko Krka Knin, 20 000 Milja pod morem, participated in the creation of the commentary. In total, we listed 18 proposals for amendments and comments, of which only four comments were accepted or partially accepted, eight proposals were not accepted, and six of them were acknowledged. Among the accepted comments were the proposals to amend the text. The proposals pointed out that in addition to the need to speed up environmental procedures in order to achieve strategic objectives, the need to highlight environmental protection goals should also be mentioned, as they should be at the core of environmental impact assessment procedures.

We asked for the text to state that it is necessary to work on the quality of procedures with the main goal of protecting and preserving nature and the environment and to take into account the sensitivity of

protected areas and vulnerability to the consequences of climate change. Comments that were not accepted were related to the inclusion of measures related to raising the capacity of stakeholders and the public in participation, the proposal to introduce a special chapter in the Action Plan related to public information and participation, a better selection of indicators, as well as the extension of the consultation deadline. We have not received clear answers to the proposals related to: the improvement of EIA/assessment of need for EIA/SEA procedures by enabling digital participation of the public in these procedures with specific proposals for improvement, availability of the entire documentation of procedures, the introduction of a search tool, the ability to provide answers through a central portal in one place, and the availability of the latest versions of documents. Namely, the Ministry expects that the implementation of the measure "digitalization of the environmental impact assessment procedure" will provide a more efficient opportunity for the public to participate in these procedures. Furthermore, they expect that with further development of the software solution and digitization of data, they will enable the same in environmental impact assessment procedures.

There are also incomplete answers to the questions of how the shortening will ensure obtaining quality opinions of the members of the commission and other bodies that should be involved in the procedure, and how sufficient capacities for the implementation of these procedures at the county levels will be ensured. Namely, it is envisaged to increase the competencies of county departments for certain EIA procedures.

## Strategic Objective 4

- ***Draft Management Plan of the Marjan Forest Park 2024–2033***

The holder of the development of this Plan was the Public Institution for the Marjan Forest Park Management. The consultation was carried out between February 16 and March 24, 2024. Sunce participated by sending comments by email. The Management Plan has not yet been formally adopted, so it is not possible to assess our impact.

- ***Draft Programme of Measures for the Protection and Management of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Area of the Republic of Croatia until 2027***

The holder of the development of this Program was the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. The consultation was carried out between February 26 and March 12, 2024. Sunce participated through *e-Savjetovanja*.

The document was once already at the public hearing in July 2023, but on the website of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. In the new version, minor cosmetic changes have been adopted at *e-Savjetovanja*. An impact assessment will be made in 2025, as the consultation report document is currently not available on the *e-Savjetovanja* website.

- ***Regulation on the Proclamation of the Special Reserve Cape Stupišće***

The holder of the drafting of the Regulation was the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition, and the consultation was conducted from November 25 to December 25, 2024. Through the *e-Savjetovanja* portal, we reviewed the Regulation during the public consultation. The regulation transposed all the key provisions from the expert basis for the proclamation prepared by Sunce, it

contained only the category of protection, the proposed borders, what is to be preserved, and an indicative list of activities that need to be prohibited and regulated in this area.

- **Proposal of Nature Conservation Goals of the Republic of Croatia Contributing to the Implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

Through the *e-Savjetovanja* portal, we participated in the public consultation. The document was drafted by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition, and the consultation was conducted from November 21 to December 21, 2024. The consultation report was published on January 13, 2025. The impact analysis will be carried out during 2025, after the adoption of the document.

- **Regulation on the Protection and Conservation of the Northern Velebit National Park**

The entity responsible for the drafting of the regulation was the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition. The consultation via the *e-Savjetovanja* portal was conducted from May 9 to June 7, 2024. We reviewed the Regulation, but we had no comments.

### **Analysis of the 2023 consultation**

- **Proposal of the Anchorage Arrangement Plan of the Split-Dalmatia County**

The holder of this plan is the Split–Dalmatia County, Administrative Department for Tourism and Maritime Affairs. The public consultation was conducted in the period from November 2 to December 4, 2023. Sunce submitted its comments by e-mail. The report on the discussion was published on the website of the Split–Dalmatia County ([www.dalmacija.hr](http://www.dalmacija.hr)). The comments of Sunce were partially accepted. The report states that, following consultations with the local self-government unit, the inclusion of Stiniva Bay (Milna cadastral municipality) and Stračinska Bay (Gornje Selo cadastral municipality) in the Plan (out of a total of seven locations proposed by Sunce) will be considered.

Regarding the proposed increase in the relevant length of vessels from 12 to 16 meters in the Anchorage Plan, they state that "the position, size and maximum capacity of the anchorage will be determined by the SEA/GUP based on the previously developed *Anchorage Arrangement Plan of the Split-Dalmatia County*". The proposal to adapt the anchor fields at two locations (Port of Pučišća and Vela Rina Drvenik M.) has not been answered. *The Anchorage Arrangement Plan of the Split-Dalmatia County* was adopted by the County Assembly on April 29, 2024, and the conclusion on the adoption of the *Anchorage Arrangement Plan* was published in the Official Gazette of the County 59/2024. The plan is available on the websites of the Public Institution Sea and Karst and Pomorsko je dobro.

- **Draft Proposal of the Regulation on Professional Training of Maritime and Port Guards**

The holder of the drafting of this Regulation was the Ministry of the Sea, Transport, and Infrastructure. The consultation was carried out between November 29 and December 29, 2023. This Regulation derives from the Maritime Domain and Seaports Act (Official Gazette 87/23) and, among other things, prescribes authorized supervisors of the maritime domain (including employees of public institutions for the management of protected areas), as well as the manner of their training. Sunce submitted comments via *e-Savjetovanja* in order to contribute to increasing the effectiveness of surveillance and thus the preservation of marine and coastal ecosystems. The report on the consultation was published in January 2024 and Sunce's comments were not accepted. The final version of the Regulation was adopted and published in the Official Gazette 9/24.

Furthermore, within the **organizational objective Maintained continuity of Sunce's action in processes related to the development and activities of civil society**, we have also participated in the following consultations:

- **Regulation on the Criteria for Identifying Beneficiaries and Distribution of Income from Games of Chance for 2024**

Unlike in 2023, when the Ministry of Finance was in charge of the implementation of this public consultation, in 2024 this duty fell to the Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Government of the Republic of Croatia. The consultation was conducted in an even shorter period than the previous year, i.e. from March 1 to March 8, 2024. During the consultation, a thematic session of the Council for Civil Society Development was held (March 6, 2024), which was attended by the Executive Director of Sunce as a member. Similar to last year, the comments we submitted were related to the duration of the consultation as well as to the proposal to include a separate category regarding environmental and nature protection among the categories that determine the percentage of financing. Both proposals were not accepted. Furthermore, as at the Council session, we did not agree that the unspent funds from the previous year should be distributed only to certain sectors. This remark was not accepted either, and it was pointed out that the distribution was determined on the basis of the submitted sectoral analyses for determining the priority areas of financing programs and projects for the common good.

It is important to point out that the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development does not prepare a sectoral analysis to determine the priority areas of financing programs and projects of interest for environmental protection, which are implemented by environmental civil society organizations and other associations. This analysis is made by the Environmental Protection Fund and is of very poor quality, and environmental civil society organizations are not involved in its development. Our inclusion is one of the advocacy goals of the Green Forum. Thus, in July, when preparing the tender for associations of the EPEEF for 2024, the EPEEF consulted the Green Forum in order to make a contribution related to the topics that we believe need to be financed. Also, at that time, comments were sent from the members of the Green Forum regarding certain conditions of the EPEEF tender.

- **Draft Proposal of the Ordinance on the Conditions and Method of Allocation of the Fund's Appropriations and the Criteria and Benchmarks for Assessing the Application for the Allocation of the Fund's Appropriations**

From February 20 to March 5, 2024, we participated in a consultation via the website of the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund (EPEEF) on the Draft Proposal of the Ordinance on the Conditions and Method of Allocation of the Fund's Appropriations and the Criteria and Benchmarks for Assessing the Application for the Allocation of the Fund's Appropriations. Joint comments were sent through the Green Forum network and several member associations. Although communication with the EPEEF was established and a meeting on the financing of environmental organizations was held with representatives of the Green Forum, the EPEEF, and other state administration bodies important for the operation of environmental CSOs (October 27, 2023), the EPEEF did not take a more proactive approach and did not communicate with associations about the adoption of this Ordinance and information on consultations.

We sent six comments with proposals for amendments and adjustments to the articles of the Ordinance in order to highlight part of the problems related to the implementation of the EPEEF tender, as well as approved projects. The comment related to the introduction of sectoral analyses in the planning of the purpose of funds of EPEEF was not accepted. In its explanation, the EPEEF pointed out that when the Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Government of the Republic of Croatia sends an inquiry for the preparation of Sectoral Analyses for 2025, it will communicate the analysis of the situation and trends in the sector with the Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, interested associations and the competent Ministry.

For comments related to the proposals to amend the articles, which would enable the restoration of the possibility of concluding individual contracts for projects of associations that are beneficiaries of the LIFE program, enabling 100% financing of associations' projects, recognizing volunteer hours of associations

as their own share of the project, recognizing indirect costs of associations and enabling pre-financing for projects of associations, the EPEEF pointed out that they are not applicable because they are not subject to the Ordinance but to the text of the Public Tender and/or the contract with the Beneficiary.

It is important to point out that with the amendments to the Ordinance, the EPEEF has enabled 80% financing of associations from the entire territory of the Republic of Croatia, and so far this percentage has been 40, 60 or 80%, depending on the area of activity of the association.

Furthermore, the amounts of funds for projects of environmental associations have not been increased and they are the smallest compared to other sectors (projects with a value of 2650 to 10 600 euros).

## Working groups

### Strategic Objective 1

- **Working Group and Committee for Drafting the Regulation on Packaging and the SUP Directive**

The Working Group and the Committee for the Drafting of the Regulation on Packaging and the SUP Directive tacitly ceased to work by adopting the Regulation on Packaging and Waste Packaging, Single-Use Plastic Products, and Fishing Gear Containing Plastic.

- **National Council for Circular Economy**

On October 10, 2024, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development adopted a decision to establish the National Council for Circular Economy, which brings together representatives of various sectors. Among the members of the Council, there is also a representative of non-governmental organizations in the field of environmental protection, whose role was taken over by Marko Košak from Zelena akcija. Along with him, the representatives of two associations were appointed as deputies: Tea Kuzmičić Rosandić from Sunce and Nina Brnić from Zelena Istra. The first session of the National Council was held on November 20, 2024 in Zagreb, but our participation was unfortunately not possible due to external constraints. Instead, we obtained information about its proceedings and conclusions from the minutes delivered after the session.

### Strategic Objective 2

- **Stakeholder Committee in the Project *The European University of the Seas*, University of Split**

One online stakeholder meeting was held on May 7, 2024, organized by the Universities of Cadiz, Gdansk, and Brest, as part of the SEA–EU 2.0 project. At the meeting, we only attended and participated in the discussion on the creation of promotional leaflets that would present the organizations within the alliance. The member of the stakeholder committee on behalf of Sunce was Margita Radman.

## Strategic Objective 3

- **Partnership Council for the Development and Implementation of The Strategy of the City of Split for 2030**

During 2024, just like during 2023, there were no council meetings. With the adoption of the Strategy, the Council ceased its work, although the Decision on the Establishment, Appointment, Structure, and Scope of Work of the Partnership Council for the Development *Strategy of the City of Split until 2030* states in the first paragraph that the Council was established to participate in the process of adopting and monitoring the implementation of the Strategy. It is up to the City of Split, as the holder of the implementation of the Strategy, to determine the ways and ensure the monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy, and it is up to us to warn of these omissions.

- **Advisory Council for Integrated Coastal Planning and Management of Split–Dalmatia County**

Not a single meeting of this Council was held during the year. However, a meeting of the Croatian partners of the DesirMED project was held on July 5, which was attended by representatives of the Regional Activity Center of the Priority Actions Program (RAC/PAP), the University of Split, the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture, and Geodesy in Split and Sunce. It was agreed to launch an initiative for the establishment of a working body within the council, which could significantly contribute to the identification of problems caused by climate change and the application of nature-based solutions in the county.

- **Partnership Council for the Development and Implementation of the Management Plan for the Old Town of Split**

We participate in the work of the Council by monitoring communication by e-mail, coordinated by the Info Zona association and, if necessary, attending Council meetings. Also, on March 11, 2024, an informal meeting of associations from the old town was held on the topic of the implementation of the Plan.

- **The Working Group for the Development of the 6th Report for the Aarhus Convention**

On October 31, 2024, the representative of Sunce was elected as a substitute on behalf of the Green Forum in the working group for the drafting of *the 6th Report for the Aarhus Convention*. This working group was established by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition. So far, a hybrid meeting has been held on November 29, 2024, in which we did not participate, but in cooperation with other members of the Green Forum coordination, we prepared comments on the draft Report, focusing on violations of the Aarhus Convention. At the meeting, the comments of the Green Forum were presented by another member of the working group.

## Strategic Objective 4

- **Working Group for Noble Pen Shell Protection**

This working group is active with an email list. Through this channel, we receive and share information about the condition of the noble pen shell in the field, sightings of live specimens, the installation of spat collectors, the success of maintaining specimens in aquariums, and similar matters. We participated in

the annual meeting of the group, which was held from March 16 to 17, 2024 in Omiš, where the implemented activities and examples of good practice, and the plan for improving future activities for the period 2023-2025 were presented.

- **Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Program of the Republic of Croatia for the 2021–2027 Programming Period**

One meeting of the Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Program of the Republic of Croatia 2021–2027 was held. (Zagreb, March 8, 2024), however, we did not participate due to other activities during that period.

- **The Island Committee of Pakleni Islands**

We participated in two meetings of the Island Committee in Hvar (March 13, 2024 and September 26, 2024). At the meetings, the document *Territorial Analysis and Strategic Plan of the Pakleni Islands (2024–2029)* was drafted and then adopted. The plan defines priority topics and activities that the Committee will deal with in the coming years, such as: water supply, energy, waste management, protection of nature, landscape, and cultural heritage. Also, the Pakleni Islands won recognition for their progress in working on the topics of sustainable development and biodiversity conservation at the Small Islands Meet-up 2024., in Marseille, organized by the French association SMILO—Small Islands Organization.

Furthermore, within the **organizational objective Maintained continuity of Sunce's action in processes related to the development and activities of civil society**, we have also been involved in:

- **Working Group for the Development of the National Strategy for the Creation of an Enabling Environment for the Civil Society Development 2024–2030**

A member of the working group for the field of environmental protection and sustainable development on behalf of Sunce is Gabrijela Medunić-Orlić, who also represents the Green Forum. During 2024, we continued to send inquiries related to the status of the Plan, but without having received concrete answers, and often with our attempts to communicate being ignored. Thus, the process of creating a strategic and planning framework for the operation of civil society organizations (CSOs) has entered its ninth year without any results. Namely, the last strategic document that focused on development referred to the period from 2012 to 2016. The Office for Cooperation with NGOs started an inclusive and participatory process of adopting the strategy for the period from 2017 to 2021, but it was never adopted. The same process was started again in 2021. Without a strategic framework being set, opportunities to strengthen the institutional, normative, and financial framework to support civil society have also been missed. This was partly reflected in the use of EU funds, the efficiency of programming, the implementation and monitoring of the implementation of CSO projects. The uncertain environment has ultimately reduced the effectiveness of CSOs in achieving the goals for which they were founded, negatively affecting the development of democracy in the Republic of Croatia.

- **Council for Civil Society Development**

Gabrijela Medunić-Orlić participated as a member in the work of the 8th convocation of the Development Council for Civil Society Development, on behalf of Sunce and the Green Forum for environmental protection and sustainable development.

A constituent session was held on January 22, 2024, a thematic online session on March 6, 2024 (related to the adoption of the Regulation on the Criteria for Identifying Beneficiaries and Distribution of Income from Games of Chance for 2024), and a thematic session on November 27, 2024 (at which the Civil

Society of the Second Swiss Contribution programme within the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme was presented). In parallel with the last session, a public discussion was held via the *e-Savjetovanja* portal for component 1. Education for Sustainable Development of the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme. In coordination with the Green Forum, we participated in voting for individual working groups for the drafting of legislative and planning acts during the year. Also, the Council was informed about the lack of adoption of the *National Strategy for the Creation of an Enabling Environment for the Civil Society Development* and the need to identify new members and replacements for individual organizations and institutions, including in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development. However, it was all to no avail. The majority of CSO representatives agree that the weakening of the institutional framework of civil society is reflected in the continuation of the poor work of the Council, which should be one of the pillars of civil society.

## Advocacy by participating in public gatherings and events

We participated in the events described under the results sections related to the four strategic objectives. Furthermore, part of the participation is also described in the results of projects and services implemented within individual departments in the extended version of the report. In 2024, advocacy was also carried out by participating in the events listed below, where we were participants or exhibitors.

### Strategic Objective 1

- Convention Biowaste Recycling in Split–Dalmatia County, organized by the Croatian Chamber of Commerce—Split County Chamber, at the initiative of the Professional Group for Environmental Protection in the Economy and in cooperation with the company Čistoća from Split (Gabrijela Medunić-Orlić and Matea Taraš, January 23, 2024),
- conference Exploring Collaborative Initiatives and Sustainable Solutions across 2021–27 Interreg Italy–Croatia Small-Scale Projects organized by JS, INTERREG V A Italy–Croatia CBC Programme (Tea Kuzmičić Rosandić, May 31, 2024, Venice),
- Communities Go Circular conference organized by Zelena Istra (Tea Kuzmičić Rosandić and Matea Taraš, September 13 and 14, 2024, Pula),
- Public forum on waste management on the example of Ancona, organized by the Direkt party (Gabrijela Medunić-Orlić and Matea Taraš, September 18, 2024, Split),
- International Hybrid Conference: Let's Choose Reuse organized by Zelena akcija (Martina Talajić and Maja Golem, November 20, 2024, Zagreb/online).

### Strategic Objective 2

- Round table Civic Competences in Formal and Informal Education—Where Are We and What Next? organized by the MoSt association in cooperation with the Human Rights House from Zagreb (Maja Golem as a panelist and Martina Talajić and Domagoj Goreta as participants, April 12, 2024, Split),
- presentation of teaching bases organized by the University Department of Marine Studies (Margita Radman and Fedra Dokoza as exhibitors and participants, May 21, 2024, Split),
- presentation of Sunce's activities—opportunities for inclusion within the Expert Council of Secondary School Biology Teachers of Split–Dalmatia County (Margita Radman and Martina Talajić, August 23, 2024, Split),
- innovative event CREATHON (creative hackathon) organized by CEDRA (Margita Radman and Tea Kuzmičić Rosandić, August 29, 2024, Split),
- a dialogue forum on the forms and ways of financing volunteer programs organized by the Mi Association (Miranda Šimac, September 26, 2024, online),
- presentation of the teaching base of the Faculty of Economics in Split organized by the faculty (Margita Radman, Dora Čukušić, and Antonela Puljić as exhibitors, October 18, 2024, Split),
- presentation of the teaching base of the Faculty of Science in Split, organized by the faculty (Margita Radman and Maja Golem, October 22, 2024, Split).

### Strategic Objective 3

- Workshop for the development of the *Strategic Marketing and Operational Plan for the Development of Tourism of the City of Split for the Period 2025–2030*, organized by the Split Tourist Board and the Croatian Chamber of Commerce (Dora Čukušić, June 19, 2024, Split),
- conference Smart City Split—Urban Mobility Organized by the City of Split (Tihana Arapović, 26.1 November 2024, Split).

### Strategic Objective 4

- Workshop Identification and Dealing with Sensitive Marine Species, organized by the Directorate of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture (Ana Miletić, March 27, 2024, Zadar),
- EUSAIR Conference on the Implementation of Biodiversity Strategy in the Adriatic Sea through Joint Solutions for Nature and Fisheries, organized by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Agriculture (Ana Miletić, April 23, 2024, Zadar),

- round table *Anchorage Arrangement Plan of the Split-Dalmatia County*, organized by the Administrative Department for Tourism, Maritime Affairs and Transport and the Public Institution Sea and Karst (Matea Špika as a panelist and Bruna Tomić as a participant, May 20, 2024, Split),
- 2024 World Seagrass Conference & 15th International Seagrass Biology Workshop organized by Stazione Zoologica Napoli (Fedra Dokoza, June 17 to 21, 2024, Naples, Italy),
- training Presentation of the Educational Program for Monitoring the Status of Habitat Type 1120 of the Posidonia Settlement (*Posidonium oceanicae*) organized by the Public Institution Lokrum Reserve (Fedra Dokoza, as an exhibitor, July 8, 2024, Lokrum),
- thematic workshop on the management of the Marjan Forest Park, organized by the Public Institution for Marjan Forest Park Management (Vida Zrnčić, August 10, 2024, Split),
- the final conference of the international project Interreg HABI organized by the Public Institution Lokrum Reserve (Matea Špika and Vida Zrnčić as exhibitors, October 23, 2024, Dubrovnik),
- presentation of the draft Expert Study for the Expert Basis for Changing the Boundaries of the Pakleni Islands Significant Landscape, with an extension of protection to the sea and the designation of the western marine part of the archipelago as a special reserve, organized by the Public Institution Sea and Karst (Ana Miletić as an exhibitor on November 29, 2024, Hvar).

**Organizational objective: Maintained continuity of Sunce's action in processes related to the development and activities of civil society**

- Conference **Volunteer Coordination: Experiences, Challenges, and Examples of Good Practice** organized by the Mi Association (Marija Majić as a presenter and participant, Domagoj Goreta as a participant, April 18, 2024, Split),
- pro-NGO workshop: Online Testing of Software for Managing Finances and Administration in CSOs organized by Gong, O.A.ZA, Association Mi—Split, Inclusive House Bell, and Norwegian partner Scanteam (Samanta Šećer and Antonela Puljić, April 19, 2024, online)

## 2.6. Annex: List of Projects

Project	Program/department of Sunce in charge	Main holder	Major donors	Implementation period	Total value of the project for the entire implementation period
LIFE Artina – Seabird Conservation Network in the Adriatic	Nature Conservation Program / Nature Conservation Department	BIOM Association	LIFE Program of the European Union, Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Croatian Government, Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund	Sept 1, 2018 – Aug 31, 2023; the project has been extended until Dec 31, 2023	The contribution of the LIFE Programme of the European Union amounts to EUR 1,152,832 (60% of the total project budget). The project is co-financed by: The Office for Cooperation with NGOs, the Government of the Republic of Croatia (EUR 74,204.80) and the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund (HRK 301,700.34). The total approved project budget for Sunce is EUR 461,488.00, with Sunce needing to provide EUR 184,579.00 through co-financing (40%).
EFFICIENTN2K – Strengthening Institutional Collaboration on Surveillance and Enforcement in Coastal and Marine Natura 2000 Sites	Nature Conservation Program / Nature Conservation Department	Sunce	EU, Interreg Cross-border Cooperation Program Italy-Croatia (Programme Priority 5 – Integrated governance for stronger cooperation), Small-scale project	Aug 1, 2023 – Dec 31, 2024	The total project budget is EUR 249,145.00, and the EU funds provided for EUR 199,315.60. The project is co-financed by the Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Government of the Republic of Croatia with the

Project	Program/department of Sunce in charge	Main holder	Major donors	Implementation period	Total value of the project for the entire implementation period amount of EUR 18,234.72.
BIOPRESSADRIA - Cross-border integrated strategy to reduce biodiversity loss due to anthropogenic pressures along Adriatic coast	Nature Conservation Program / Nature Conservation Department	Municipality of Monfalcone	EU, Interreg Cross-border Cooperation Program Italy-Croatia (Programme Priority 2 – Green and resilient common environment), Standard project	Mar 1, 2024 – Aug 31, 2026	The total project budget is EUR 2,369,480.00, and the EU funds provided for EUR 1,895,584.00 (80%). The total project budget for Sunce is EUR 352,470.00. The project is co-financed by the Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Government of the Republic of Croatia with the amount of EUR 49,345.80.
<i>ASPEH – Adriatic SPECies and Habitats of coastal areas</i>	Nature Conservation Program / Nature Conservation Department	Management Consortium of Torre Guaceto	EU, Interreg Cross-border Cooperation Program Italy-Croatia (Programme Priority 2 – Green and resilient common environment), Standard project	Apr 1, 2024 – Sept 30, 2026	The total project budget is EUR 1,923,240.00, and the EU funds provided for EUR 1,538,592.00 (80%). The total project budget for Sunce is EUR 311,580.00. The project is co-financed by the Office for Cooperation with NGOs of

Project	Program/department of Sunce in charge	Main holder	Major donors	Implementation period	Total value of the project for the entire implementation period
					the Government of the Republic of Croatia with the amount of EUR 43,621.20.
Capacity Building of Sunce for Efficient Nature Conservation Projects Implementation	Nature Conservation Program / Nature Conservation Department	Sunce	Center for Environment through the project <i>Support to BIO NET network</i> funded by CCFD-Terre Solidaire	Dec 12, 2023 – Feb 20, 2024	EUR 1,442.11
Marine litter free Dalmatian Islands	Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Program / Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Department	Sunce	Dalmatian Islands Environment Foundation (DIEF), a branch of the Conservation Collective	Aug 15, 2023 – Jun 15, 2024	EUR 9,940.00
From river to the sea – let's be plastic free	Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Program / Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Department	Diving club Sub-merus Calypso Diving	Beyond Plastic Med (BeMed) micro-initiative	Apr 1, 2023 – Nov 30, 2024	EUR 3,000.00.
Plastic-Free Croatian Island	Environmental Protection and Sustainable	Sunce	Dalmatian Islands Environment Foundation (DIEF),	Apr 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2025	40,771.60 EUR

Project	Program/department of Sunce in charge	Main holder	Major donors	Implementation period	Total value of the project for the entire implementation period
	Development Program / Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Department		with funds received from the Conservation Collective through a partnership with Depeche Mode & Hublot		
AWASTER – Adopting WASTE as Resource	Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Program / Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Department	IRENA – Istrian Regional Energy Agency Ltd.	EU, Interreg Cross-border Cooperation Program Italy-Croatia 2021/2027 (Programme Priority 2 – Green and resilient common environment), Standard project	Mar 1, 2024 – Aug 31, 2026	The total project budget is EUR 1,505,384.00, and the EU funds provided for EUR 1,204,307.20 (80%). The total project budget for Sunce is EUR 251,220.00.
WASTEREDUCE – Integrated waste reduction strategies and solutions in protected and Natura 2000 areas	Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Program / Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Department	Institute of Agriculture and Tourism – IPTPO (Croatia)	EU, Interreg Cross-border Cooperation Program Italy-Croatia 2021/2027 (Programme Priority 2 – Green and resilient common environment), Standard project	Feb 1, 2024 – Jul 31, 2026	The total project budget is EUR 1,657,742.00, and the ERDF funds provided for EUR 1,326,193.78 (80%). The total project budget for Sunce is EUR 222,240.00, of which EUR 177,792.00 are from the ERDF fund (80%).
FishNoWaste – Waste reduction and management in fishing ports of the Adriatic Sea to promote sustainable	Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Program / Environmental Protection and	University of Padova Italia	EU, Interreg Cross-border Cooperation Program Italy-Croatia 2021/2027 (Programme Priority 2 – Green and resilient	Feb 1, 2024 – Jul 31, 2026	The total project budget is EUR 2,369,480.00, and the EU funds provided for EUR 1,926,331.79 (80%). The total project budget for Sunce is EUR 353,780.00,

Project	Program/department of Sunce in charge	Main holder	Major donors	Implementation period	Total value of the project for the entire implementation period
fisheries	Sustainable Development Department		common environment), Standard project		of which EUR 283,024.00 EUR are from the EU funds (ERDF).  The project is co-financed by the Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Government of the Republic of Croatia with the amount of EUR 49,529.20.
Career for Green, Digital and Sustainable Tourism	Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Program / Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Department	Sunce	Ministry of Tourism and Sport	Jul 1, 2023 – Jun 28, 2024	The total project budget is EUR 39,270.51 EUR, of which EUR 25,956.00 are cofunded from the Ministry of Tourism and Sport.
Tourism 2030 – Sustainability is my vibe	Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Program / Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Department	Sunce	Ministry of Tourism and Sport	Apr 1, 2024 – Jun 27, 2025	The total project budget is EUR 41,031.09, of which EUR 26,995.00 are cofunded from the Ministry of Tourism and Sport.
Cooperation on marine protection within the Biotherm	Environmental Protection and Sustainable	Sunce	Biotherm	Jun 1, 2023 – Dec 31, 2023	EUR 10,000.00

Project	Program/department of Sunce in charge	Main holder	Major donors	Implementation period	Total value of the project for the entire implementation period
Water Lovers campaign	Development Program				
Split Bike Fest	Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Program / Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Department	Sunce	City of Split, Urban Planning and Construction Division, Department for Environmental Protection	May 3, 2024 – Nov 30, 2024	EUR 4,8000.00
Split Cycling Tour	Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Program / Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Department	Sunce	Split-Dalmatia County Tourist Board	Jun 15, 2024 – Oct 24, 2024	EUR 1,600.00
Split Cycling Tour	Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Program / Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Department	Sunce	Split Tourist Board	Jun 15, 2024 – Oct 24, 2024	EUR 260.00

Project	Program/department of Sunce in charge	Main holder	Major donors	Implementation period	Total value of the project for the entire implementation period
Split Cycling Tour	Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Program / Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Department	Sunce	Split Parking	Jun 15, 2024 – Dec 1, 2024	EUR 130.00
Strategies for Comprehensive Recovery of Coastal Brownfield Areas (2023-2024) – Coastal Brownfield Remediation	Environmental Law Department / Communication and Advocacy Department	University of Zagreb, Faculty of Civil Engineering	Bilateral initiative of the Coastal Brownfield Remediation (2023 – 2024) is financed under the EEA Bilateral Relations Fund and the Norwegian financial mechanism for the period 2014-2021.	Apr 1, 2023 – Apr 1, 2024	The total budget of the project is EUR 99,280.00 and Sunce's budget is EUR 6,437.59.
Green Phone – Lend your voice to the environment! - II	Environmental Law Department / Communication and Advocacy Department	Sunce	Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund	Jun 22, 2022 – Oct 29, 2023	Total project value is EUR 26,500.00, and the approved amount for co-financing is EUR 10,600.00.
DesirMED: Demonstration and mainstreaming of nature-based Solutions for climate Resilient	Environmental Law Department / Communication and Advocacy Department	CMCC – Centro Euro-Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici	EU program HORIZON-MISS-2022-CLIMA-01 Research and innovation actions to support the	Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2028	The total project cost: EUR 17.733.882,50. The total project funding: EUR 16,938,059.00. The total Sunce's budget: EUR 428,250.00.

Project	Program/department of Sunce in charge	Main holder	Major donors	Implementation period	Total value of the project for the entire implementation period
transformation in the MEDiterranean			implementation of the climate adaptation mission		
Solidarity for Green Dalmatia 2022	Department of Education and Information	Sunce	EU, European Solidarity Corps	Aug 1, 2022 – Mar 31, 2024	EUR 26.203.00
Solidarity for Green Dalmatia 2023	Department of Education and Information	Sunce	EU, European Solidarity Corps	Nov 1, 2023 – Apr 30, 2025	EUR 39,732.00
Solidarity for Green Dalmatia 2024	Department of Education and Information	Sunce	EU, European Solidarity Corps	Dec 1, 2024 – May 31, 2026	EUR 60,463.00
VolonTERRA—Active Schools Initiate Changes!	Department of Education and Information	Regionales Umweltbildungszentrum Hollen	Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt	Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2025	Total project budget: EUR 159,998.00. Budget for Sunce: EUR 80,048.00. DBU finances 50% of the project (EUR 40,024.00).
ŠIZIKA	Department of Education and Information	Sunce	City of Split	Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2024	EUR 6,395.85
Active Youth for Environmental and Nature Protection	Department of Education and Information	Sunce	L'Oreal, Garnier	Aug 23, 2023 – May 30, 2024	EUR 10,000.00
Small Steps for a Sustainable society – A Journey towards Environmental Awareness	Department of Education and Information	Sunce	Ministry of Science and Education	Nov 8, 2023 – Aug 31, 2024	EUR 14,069.75

Project	Program/department of Sunce in charge	Main holder	Major donors	Implementation period	Total value of the project for the entire implementation period
ML-FREE: Marine Litter-Free Adriatic Sea – Education for Active Youth Participation	Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Department / Department of Education and Information	Sunce	EU, Interreg Cross-border Cooperation Programme Italy-Croatia 2021/2027 (Program priority 5 – green and resilient common environment), Small-scale project	Aug 1, 2023 – Dec 31, 2024	The total budget of the project is EUR 220,406.40, of which EUR 176,325.12 has been secured by EU funds. The project is co-financed by the Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Government of the Republic of Croatia with the amount of EUR 19,519.14.
VERA – Sustainable Agricultural Models for Biodiversity Preservation	Department of Education and Information	Municipality of Larino, Italy	EU, Interreg Cross-border Cooperation Programme Italy-Croatia 2021/2027 (Program priority 5 – green and resilient common environment), small-scale project	Sept 1, 2023 – Dec 31, 2024	The total budget of the project is EUR 246,687.22, of which the value of the project assigned to Sunce is EUR 59,997.96 and it is necessary to provide 20% by co-financing. Part of it is provided through co-financing of the Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Government of the Republic of Croatia in the amount of EUR 8,399.71.
Three-year General Support Grant	Organization	Sunce	Sigrid Rausing Trust Foundation	Dec 1, 2022 – Nov 30, 2025	GBP 300,000.00
Institutional support	Organization	Sunce	National Foundation for Civil Society Development	Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2022; the grant was extended for a total of	EUR 36,392.00

Project	Program/department of Sunce in charge	Main holder	Major donors	Implementation period	Total value of the project for the entire implementation period
				three years, i.e. until Dec 31, 2024, on the basis of approved reports and implementation plans	

## 2.7. Annex: List of Services

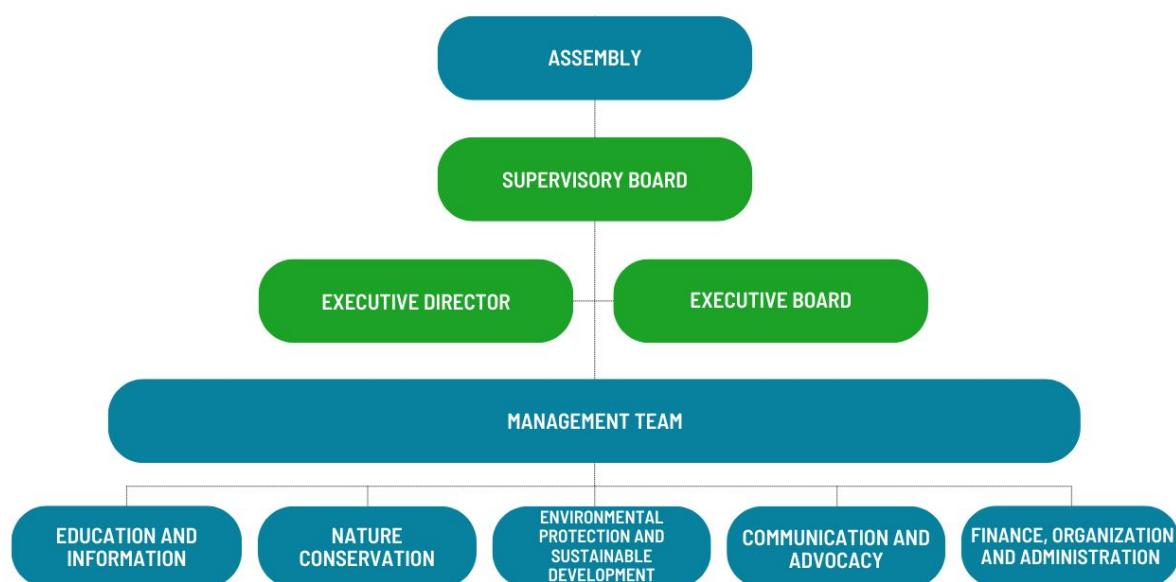
Service	Program/department of Sunce in charge	Contracting client	Implementation period	Total service value for the entire implementation period (excluding VAT)
Development of an Expert Study for the Expert Basis for Changing the Boundaries of the Pakleni Islands Significant Landscape and the Implementation of an Educational Program for Children	Nature Conservation Program / Nature Conservation Department	Public Institution for the Management of Protected Parts of Nature in the Split-Dalmatia County "Sea and Karst"	Feb 13, 2024 – Nov 30, 2024 (extended until Mar 1, 2025 at the request of the Client)	EUR 12,800.00
Research of the Underwater World, Establishment of Monitoring, and Education as a part of the Interreg HABI Project on the island of Lokrum	Nature Conservation Program / Nature Conservation Department	Public institution Lokrum Reserve	Apr 29, 2024 – Jun 31, 2024	EUR 24,000.00
Preparation of the Management Plan for the Special Forest Vegetation Reserve "Lokrum Island" and the Ecological Network Area HR400017 Lokrum	Nature Conservation Program / Nature Conservation Department	Public institution Lokrum Reserve	Dec 18, 2023 – Mar 31, 2025	EUR 9,900.00
Service for conducting educational and informational activities on waste management within the framework of a circular	Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Program / Environmental Protection and Sustainable	Municipality of Orebić	May 1, 2024 – Jun 30, 2024	EUR 7,250.00

Service	Program/department of Sunce in charge	Contracting client	Implementation period	Total service value for the entire implementation period (excluding VAT)
economy	Development Department			
Service Designing and implementing educational workshops/tribunes/education on waste management	Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Program / Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Department	City of Trogir	Oct 24, 2024 – Dec 31, 2024	EUR 1,925.00
Education of children as part of the Maritime Culture Festival	Department of Education and Information	Split-Dalmatia County Tourist Board	May 9, 2024 – Jul 11, 2024	EUR 7,250.00
Education of educators on the topic of ecological and sustainable development with the aim of improving services for early and preschool children for Kindergarten Kadujica, Okrug Gornji	Department of Education and Information	Kadujica Kindergarten	Jan 11, 2024 – May 2, 2024	EUR 1,800.00
Education about marine ecosystems for students of Manuš Elementary School	Department of Education and Information	Hanza Media	Mar 8, 2024 – May 22, 2024	EUR 220.00
Education about marine ecosystems for students of Kamešnica Elementary School	Department of Education and Information	Kamešnica Elementary School	May 24, 2024 – Jun 14, 2024	EUR 180.00
Organizing workshops for primary school children in celebration of Earth Day 2024.	Department of Education and Information	Hanza Media	Feb 1, 2024 – May 7, 2024	EUR 700.00

Service	Program/department of Sunce in charge	Contracting client	Implementation period	Total service value for the entire implementation period (excluding VAT)
Design and implementation of educational workshops on environmentally responsible households – IKEA 2023–2024	Department of Education and Information	IKEA	Sept 12, 2023 – May 8, 2024	EUR 1100.00
Education of children at Split 3 Elementary School	Department of Education and Information	Split 3 Elementary School	Apr 19, 2024 – May 27, 2024	EUR 100.00
Green Trip 'Guardians of Biodiversity' for children from the Croatian Red Cross	Department of Education and Information	Gradsko društvo Crvenog križa Ploče	Sept 11, 2024 – Oct 17, 2024	EUR 120.00

### 3. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The year 2024 was an election year, whereby, based on the Statute adopted at the Assembly on December 20, 2023, elections for the Executive Board and the Supervisory Board and an internal competition for the Executive Director were conducted. At the Assembly held on February 28, 2024, a new Executive Board and authorized representatives were selected, and a public tender for members of the Supervisory Board was agreed upon. The members of the Supervisory Board were elected at the Assembly held on April 15, 2024, when new members of the Ethics Committee were also elected. After the completion of the election processes, work continued on the harmonization of organizational documents related to restructuring (Decision on the Systematization of Jobs and Salaries of Employees, Labor Regulations, etc.). Therefore, part of the organization's resources is focused on coordinating and implementing these processes and establishing a new organizational structure. At the same time, significant capacities are aimed at ensuring the smooth operation of the Association and the achievement of objectives. The new organizational structure included the creation of two new departments: Finance, Organization, and Administration Department, and the Communication and Advocacy Department, which included the former activities of the Department of Environmental Law, as well as the Green Phone. The program of environmental protection and sustainable development was taken over by the homonymous department, whereby the program of environmentally responsible management of small tourist facilities Dalmatia Green and work on the topic of sustainable tourism fell under the scope of this Department. In May, a new Decision on the Systematization of Jobs and Salaries of Employees was adopted. With this Decision, some employees have taken over the roles of heads of departments and have been assigned to new positions, and the work is organized into five basic organizational units, two of which are thematic and programmatic, and three are horizontal-functional.

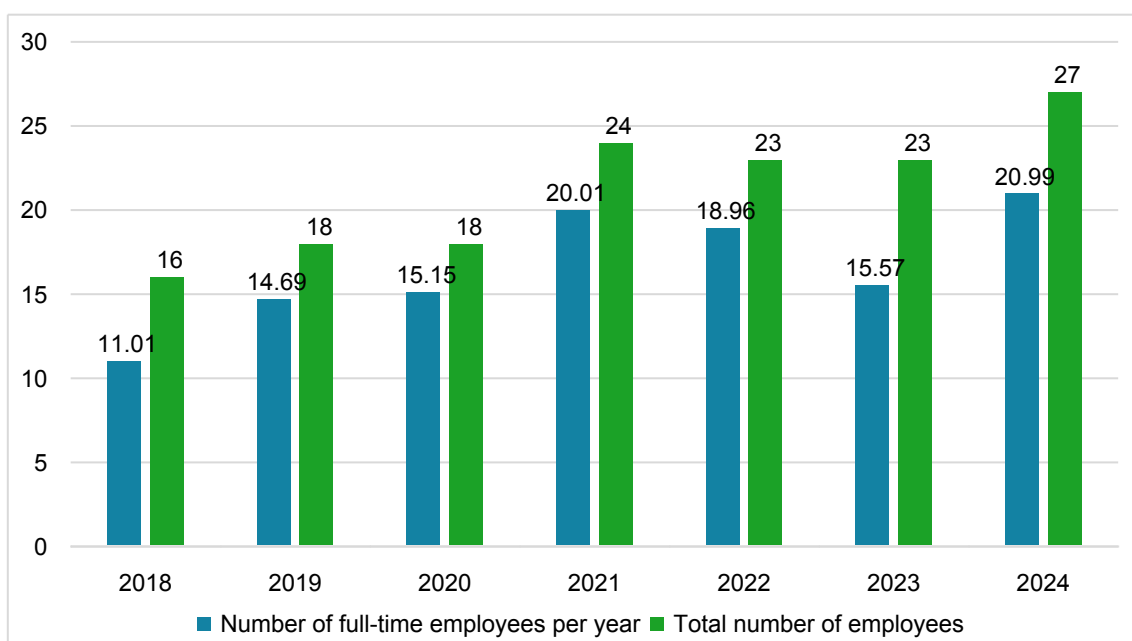


Institutional support from the National Foundation for Civil Society Development and the Sigrid Foundation enabled part of the capacities to be directed to further work on the restructuring of the association and harmonization.

The year 2024 was also marked by high employee turnover, mostly due to new hires (as many as eight new employees) and employee layoffs (three people). In order to increase the motivation of employees to retain and prevent further fluctuation in the Association, salaries have also been increased by the aforementioned Decision. We continued to apply an improved methodology for evaluating the work of employees, which, in addition to the standard procedure, includes the so-called *360 evaluation* and mutual evaluation of associates through an anonymous questionnaire. All evaluations of the work of employees were carried out using these approaches.

In the first half of the year, the orientation workshop was modified so that several smaller thematic orientation workshops were designed and held at an interval of one to two weeks. Also, as part of the Capacity Building of Sunce for Efficient Nature Conservation Projects Implementation project, cooperation with the company Prava formula d.o.o. was initiated in order to improve human resource management, and the Situational Management training was held for employees of the Nature Conservation Department.

In total, 27 people were employed in Sunce in 2024. However, annually, the number of full-time employees was 20.64, which is an increase compared to the previous year, when this number was 15.57. This is also the year with the largest number of employees since the founding of Sunce. This increase is the result of as many as five approved Interreg standard projects, as well as organizational support, especially from the Sigrid Foundation.

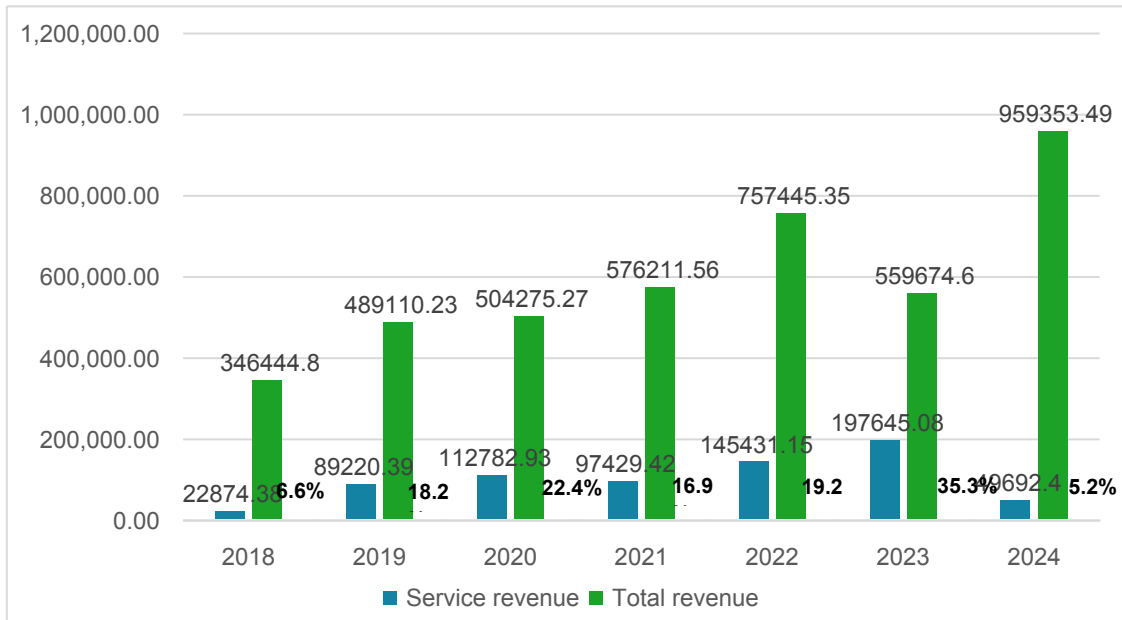


Graph 2: The number of employees in the period from 2018 to 2024

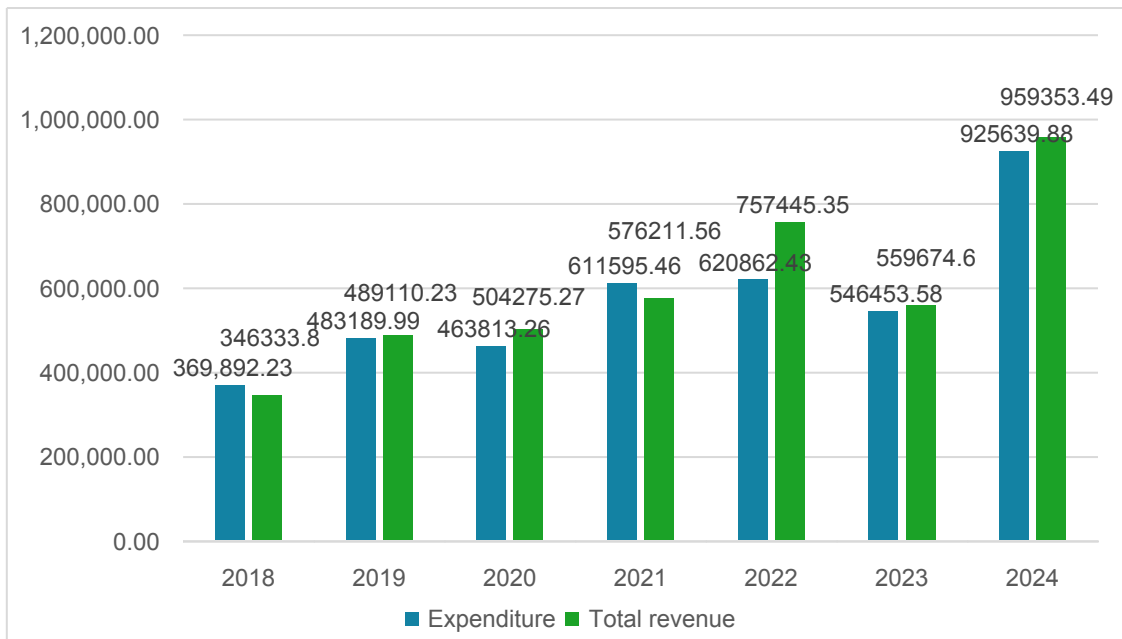
The two-year *Membership Development Plan 2022–2024* continued to be implemented and communication and relations with members were improved. During the year, 49 new members joined and Sunce had 445 members at the end of the year. Traditional public events, which became gathering places for members and volunteers, continued to be held; Exchange Fair, ŠIZIKA—sewing, patchwork, and creative activities, and Squiz, or Quizos (pub-quiz of Sunce). Also, communication with members through Sunce's newsletter continued, with a total of 12 newsletters having been sent.

Two events were held for members. First, on December 18, 2024, the regular Sunce Assembly was held, after which a gathering of members was held, while on November 26, 2024, the founding meeting of Sunce's volunteer club was held, which its members/volunteers named SoleSTerra.

In 2024, a decrease in the share of income from economic activity in total revenues was recorded. The reason for this share of 5% is the focus on the implementation of projects of significant value and scope, which is visible in the total income of Sunce that has never increased since its foundation. Furthermore, during 2023, a large and financially significant service of drafting management plans was completed, while in 2024 there were no financially significant services.



Graph 3: Trends in service revenue and total revenue 2018 – 2024



Graph 4: Trends in total revenue and total expenditure amounts 2018-2024

## 4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Generated revenue of Sunce in 2024	Revenue amounts EUR
Foreign sources (foreign governments and international organizations)	151,549.68
Foreign sources (EU funds) *	571,567.12
Budget, state	37,027.81
Budget, local	14,055.85
Own income generated by performing permitted activities	49,692.40
Donations from the business sector of the Republic of Croatia	80,789.51
Membership fees	920.00
Donations from citizens of the Republic of Croatia	556.00
Other (sales revenues, refunds, etc.)	53,195.12
<b>Total revenue of Sunce in 2024</b>	<b>959,353.49</b>
Generated expenditure of Sunce in 2024	Expenditure amounts EUR
Salaries, allowances and contributions for employees	581,169.10
Compensation for employees to cover the cost of business trips, workshops, seminars	44,148.43
Compensation to consultants and associates (foreign and domestic) and persons outside employment (fees, author's contract and service contracts + travel expenses)	18,703.94
Volunteer expenses	25,279.85
Expenditure on services (rent, telephone, maintenance, etc.)	77,323.40
Costs of material	21,171.60
Intellectual and personal services (contracts, bookkeeping service, student service, etc.)	40,920.34
Other expenditures (membership fees, donations, banking services, <i>depreciation</i> , etc.)	116,923.22
<b>Total expenditure of Sunce in 2024</b>	<b>925,639.88</b>

\*Note: it refers to funds received for financing and co-financing projects from Interreg Italy Croatia (standard and small-scale), Horizon, ESF, ESS and Erasmus programs (in the statement of revenues and expenditures it was recorded under the state budget/EU institutions and bodies/ legal entities for EU projects – depending on the disburser of funds).



# sunce

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