

Posidonia Gardeners



Short name

Posidonia Gardeners

Formal name

Posidonia Gardeners

Contact person

Manuel Marinelli

Institution/Organisation

Project Manaia - Association for Marine Conservation

Website

<https://www.projectmanaia.at>

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<https://www.linkedin.com/company/project-manaia/>

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Giving the people a chance to make a positive difference for their seagrass meadows

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Summary

“Posidonia Gardeners” proposes a 1-month citizen science sailing campaign dedicated to *Posidonia oceanica* around the Mediterranean’s largest island – Sicily, to protect and restore the seagrass *Posidonia oceanica*, a keystone species of the Mediterranean sea. The goal of this campaign is to extend the citizen science efforts of Project Manaia (PM) in the region of Sicily by involving local entities into data collection as well as hands on replanting efforts on *Posidonia oceanica* to achieve a bigger impact and activate a larger community of professional (PS) and citizen scientists (CS). During this period, PM will host a mix of professional and citizen scientists on board the research vessel *Waya Waya* to take them around Sicily, the Aeolian islands as well as Malta and connect with like minded organizations, dive centers, watersports clubs and other interested parties. They will participate in workshops and receive training to conduct self-organized field work and replanting efforts in the future. On shore, these trained partners will act as collection points of data in their region, involving local schools, clubs and organizations. As part of this, Project Manaia will return to the sites (e.g., the Aeolian Islands), conducting observations on previously planted *Posidonia* to perfect the methods.