The project has great scientific value both for research and for medical-veterinary practice. The centre, the only European project to have such comprehensive resources, aims to develop initiatives to increase awareness of the importance of environmental protection and consequently, to attract tourists interested in events of a scientific nature. The centre is a visitor attraction which will include appropriate information and will give visitors the opportunity to learn more about the animals.

The intervention aims to create a Taranto-based multinational authority to safeguard the health of protected sea fauna - especially cetaceans, turtles and seals. The various services are located on two sites. The first, in the town’s historical centre, includes the medical-surgical-obstetric clinic, the recovery area and quarantine pools, the autopsy room and the pathologic anatomy, viral diseases, parasitology and toxicology laboratories.

The second site in “Torre Zozzoli”, offers not only rehabilitation areas for the animals but also alternative forms of therapy for people affected by diseases such as autism, depression, and tetra/paraplegia.

The cost of the project is about 3.8 million Euros, funded from the Puglia Regional Operational Programme (ROP).

The intervention is supervised by the Commune of Taranto and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Bari which has a degree in the science of Taranto marine culture.