

## Dr. Elena Gissi, PhD



Dr. Gissi is a Senior Scientist at the Italian National Research Council, Institute of Marine Sciences (CNR ISMAR), and co-director of the Gendered Innovations in Science, Medicine, and Engineering Project at Stanford University, USA. With expertise in conservation biology and planning for social-ecological systems, her research focuses on coastal and marine natural resource management and sustainability science through interdisciplinary approaches. At Stanford University, where she was a Visiting Scholar with a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship (2020–2023), she developed the foundational framework for sex analysis and the gender dimension of research in biology and conservation; she currently leads the environmental sciences section of the Gendered Innovations project. Dr. Gissi was recently awarded a prestigious Italian Fund of Science (FIS3) Advanced Grant for her project INTRASEAM "Integrating Sex in Sustainable Ocean Management and Observing Systems for Biodiversity Conservation of the Mediterranean Sea" (5 years).

Dr. Gissi has worked with decision-makers and communities to identify needs and science-based solutions supporting environmental conservation and human well-being in territorial planning, energy planning, and maritime spatial planning (MSP). She led the design and implementation of ecosystem-based management and MSP initiatives in the Mediterranean Sea through EU-funded collaborative projects, including ADRIPLAN, SIMWESTMED, and MEDIX. She currently serves as an Expert for the UNESCO IOC Initiative on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management and for the MSP process of the Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport. She has been an invited expert on these topics for UNESCO-IOC, UNEP, ACCOBAMS, JPI Ocean, and ICES, among others.

Throughout her research career, Dr. Gissi has collaborated with numerous universities and research institutions, including the University of Queensland (Australia), the University of Lisbon, the University of the Azores (Portugal), and the University of Seville (Spain). She is also part of international research networks, such as EU-funded COST Actions and, more recently, CLIMAservation "Unifying Approaches to Understand the Diversity of Climate Change Impacts for Adaptation Management and Conservation Purposes" — a three-year international network of scientists financed by the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), of which Dr. Gissi is the sole Italian member, alongside scientists from Spain, the USA, and Japan. She has published 67 peer-reviewed papers and supervised 10 post-doctoral researchers, 5 research fellows, and more than 50 master's students.