



REPORT ON THE EVENT

**“BLUE GROWTH” – LET US DISCOVER THE POTENTIALS
OF THE BLUE GROWTH AND EXPRESS THE PRIORITIES
OF THE DEVELOPMENT IN SLOVENIA**

**which took place on April 18, 2019, at the National Institute of
Biology, the Marine Biology Station Piran**

Introduction

On the session which took place from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M., there were 26 participants present. After the introductory greeting of the Head of the Department Patricija Mozetič, Ph.D., Iztok Škerlič presented the concept of blue growth, which is written in the thematic complex (TC) “Blue Growth EUSAIR” of the European concept of the regional development of the Adriatic-Ionian area. The concept of the blue development within the framework of the European Bluemed strategy was presented by Vlado Malačič. He also presented the review of the current selection of ten priority Bluemed actions of the blue development in the Mediterranean area, as well as the proposal of ten priorities of the blue development in Slovenia, which was passed to the coordinator of the CSA Bluemed project in February 2019.

Selection of the priorities of the blue development

In the second part of the session, a discussion took place on the concept of five priorities, ten at the most, which we would like to establish in Slovenia. This discussion was led by Andreja Jerina, the National Coordinator for EU Macroregional Strategies in Slovenia. The discussion took place about the review of a survey questionnaire, which included 31 contents or actions, collected together on the basis of the past selection of Slovenian Bluemed priorities and on the basis of EUSAR TC “Blue Growth”. During the discussion, we supplemented some of the contents. After a lively discussion, an online survey took place, which was performed mostly with mobile telephones.

At the end of the survey, we skimmed through results. A. Jerina summarized them and presented five essential contents of the blue development, which should be followed in Slovenia. The summarized contents received firm support from participants.

At the same time, the organizers of the event (Iztok Škerlič and Vlado Malačič) warned the participants of the problem of the lack of a representative for the Bluemed concept of development in Brussels. The participants firmly supported the proposal that A. Jerina would accept the position, together with her colleague (Mr. Emil Ferjančič) if she is able to do so. There will be a discussion about her decision at the end of June 2019, after an important international session led by Slovenia which is a strain for A. Jerina.

Survey statistics

There were 22 participants in the survey. The survey questionnaire included 31 possible tasks. Each answer included the possible answers '1' (not important), '2' (important) and '3' (very important). Let us present the results which are sorted according to the falling average value. The first seven contents with the highest average value are entirely in accordance with the distribution of the medial value:

No.	Action	< >	median	STD
1	K.A2. Understanding Pollution Impacts, Mitigation, and Remediation in the Mediterranean Sea	2.7	3.0	0.6
2	E.C1. Linking tourism, tourists, and the environment in order to develop sustainable tourism	2.7	3.0	0.6
3	K.D2. Support solutions for sustainable food production	2.6	3.0	0.5
4	T.A1. Greening vessels, facilities, and services	2.5	3.0	0.7
5	Governance of maritime space	2.4	2.5	0.7
6	K.B2. Preparing to climate change and defining adaptation/mitigation measures	2.3	2.5	0.8
7	C.A4. Building capacity, blue skills, and blue professionals – Researchers' mobility	2.3	2.0	0.6

We marked in orange the essential five priorities which have the highest average and medial values. The other contents follow in the next table according to their average value:

No.	Action	<>	Median	STD
8	C.A4. Building capacity, blue skills, and blue professionals – Researchers' mobility	2.3	2.0	0.6
9	E.E2. Effective maritime spatial planning in the Mediterranean	2.3	2.0	0.8
10	Sustainable management of fisheries	2.3	2.5	0.8
11	E.B2. Develop optimal aquaculture strategies, technologies, and practices	2.2	2.0	0.7
12	C.A2. International Cooperation and Coordinated Transboundary Networks – Macro-regional cluster development	2.2	2.0	0.7
13	C.A5. Promoting and implementing strategies and action plans	2.2	2.0	0.7
14	Marketing of seafood products	2.1	2.0	0.8
15	C.A1. Open data, open science, and open innovation – Data and knowledge sharing	2.1	2.0	0.7
16	Sustainable fishery management: Multiannual fishery management plans	2.1	2.0	0.9
17	Scientific cooperation on fisheries and fish stocks	2.1	2.0	0.8
18	C.A3. Interaction between scientists, stakeholders, policy, and decision makers, civil society	2.1	2.0	0.8
19	K.C1. Reducing the coastal risk of disasters and their effects	2.0	2.0	0.6
20	E.E1. Strengthen synergies among science, industry, policy-makers, and society	2.0	2.0	0.6
21	Exploring the potential of green sea mobility	2.0	2.0	0.8
22	T.B3. Security and safety services and technologies in the Mediterranean supporting the Blue Growth	2.0	2.0	0.7
23	Improving access to finance and promoting start-ups in boosting blue technologies	2.0	2.0	0.8
24	24) T.B1. Towards an observing system of systems	1.8	2.0	0.9
25	E.C2. Increase the economic impact of the Mediterranean natural and cultural heritage	1.8	2.0	0.8
26	K.C2. Protecting Maritime Cultural Heritage	1.8	2.0	0.8
27	Exploring the potential of biosecurity	1.7	2.0	0.6
28	Exploring the potential of bio-technologies	1.6	2.0	0.6
29	K.B1. Forecasting the Mediterranean Sea dynamics and climate	1.6	2.0	0.6
30	K.D1. Exploring the potential of blue-biotech	1.5	1.5	0.6
31	E.E3. Promote the role of Marine Renewable Energies (MRE) in the energy transition phase	1.5	1.0	0.7

Let us write the summary of A. Jerina in the table:

1	Greening the blue economic activities and mobility
2	Sustainable tourism
3	A sustainable method of producing food
4	Protection of the environment
5	Qualification/strengthening the capacities of human resources

The participants agreed that the five priorities are approximate and that they are equal in their meaning. Transport logistics is a part of mobility, the maritime fishery is a part of food production, the protection of the maritime environment is also a part of the protection of the environment. We compare the written priorities with the most frequent content of statistics:

1	K.A2. Understanding Pollution Impacts, Mitigation, and Remediation in the Mediterranean Sea
2	E.C1. Linking tourism, tourists, and the environment in order to develop sustainable tourism
3	K.D2. Support solutions for sustainable food production
4	T.A1. Greening vessels, facilities, and services
5	Governance of maritime space
6	K.B2. Preparing to climate change and defining adaptation/mitigation measures
7	C.A4. Building capacity, blue skills, and blue professionals – Researchers' mobility

The match is solid. In the process, five priorities written in Slovenian language correspond to five of the most frequent seven contents of the statistical review. The following two contents, which are not presented in the summary of A. Jerina, are also among the most frequent 'statistical' ones:

6	<i>Preparation for the climate changes and defining the actions in order to adapt and alleviate the consequences of the climate changes</i>
7	<i>Managing the maritime space</i>

In the discussion, these two contents were also appropriately stressed.

In this way we gained the first seven approximate contents which should be a part of the national priorities of the blue development. In the discussion it was also stressed that the participants who are employed in the governmental bodies and public institutions should pass these findings to the responsible authorities. This synchronization of different activities of ministries and governmental services should lead the country to follow the national priorities of blue development.

Written by

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