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Wyndham Grand Crete Mirabello Bay Agios Nikolaos, Crete, Greece Monday 24 October 2022











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EUSAIR Conference on Blue Growth



Monday, 24 October 2022 Venue: Wyndham Grand Crete Mirabello Bay, Agios Nikolaos, Crete, Greece

Participants: EUSAIR Governing Board, EUSAIR Pillar Coordinators and Members from TSGs, EUSAIR Facility Point representatives, EC representatives, policy and decision makers, innovation leaders, interested public, scientists, researchers, academia, potential projects beneficiaries/partners, project leaders & partners, business representatives.





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Background

While, the European Commission has just set its regulatory framework, its new initiatives and directives, its strategies and measures and for the new programming period of 2021-2027, it has also issued 'a new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU - *Transforming the EU*'s *Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future*¹¹, marking the transition from Blue Growth to a sustainable Blue Economy:

"The current European Green Deal calls for a transformation of the economy into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive one where net emissions of greenhouse gases are phased out and the EU's natural capital is protected. The Recovery Plan for Europe aims to boost the green and digital transitions and make Europe's economy fairer, more resilient and more sustainable for future generations. **The EU's Blue Economy can help** achieve this dual challenge: if put on a more sustainable path, it will become a font of action and ideas creating innovation, spurring fast and lasting recovery and protecting our planet."

Blue Growth-Blue Economy emphasises on the growing importance of science and technologies in improving the sustainable economic development of seas. Marine ecosystems are in the heart of many of the world's global challenges: food, medicines, new sources of clean energy, climate mitigation, job creation and inclusive growth. There is a need to safeguard and improve the health of marine ecosystems, to maintain sustainability and resilience of fisheries and aquaculture, and last but not least, to promote the effective and efficient marine governance in order to support the ever-growing use of marine resources. The role of marine and maritime research and innovation, and innovative technologies as such, is crucial, hence the Commission is intending to set up a pan-European innovation ecosystem for a sustainable Blue Economy. In this context, innovation can play a key role in promoting new knowledge and better coordinated action, while bridging science and economy.

Reflecting the above, the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) through its **Blue Growth Pillar** is seeking ways to make the most of new advancements in the fields of blue **biotechnology** and **innovation**, **fisheries and aquaculture**, as well as **marine and maritime governance and services**. The Pillar with its sub-themes have the following specific objectives:

- To promote research, innovation and business opportunities in blue economy sectors, by facilitating the brain circulation between research and business communities and increasing their networking and clustering capacity.
- >>>> To adapt to sustainable seafood production and consumption, by developing common standards and approaches for strengthening these two sectors and providing a level playing field in the macro-region.
- To improve sea basin governance, by enhancing administrative and institutional capacities in the area of maritime governance and services.

ADRION ADRIATIC-IONIAN



EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region EUSAIR

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¹ On a new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU- Transforming the EU's Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future COM(2021)240 final

EUSAIR Conference on Blue Growth: Swimming forward!

The process of putting forward a solid implementation framework for the EUSAIR Strategy, to enhance its role and value in the years to come and to implement innovative and ambitious projects is of great concern and importance for the blue economy. It is a win-win situation and a goal we cannot miss!

Under this perspective, following the years of the pandemia and the remote events, the EUSAIR Conference on Blue Growth is being organised live aiming at bringing together the EUSAIR key implementers, the blue economy stakeholders and the policy makers and experts in the fields of «blue» advancements and achievements, seeking to:

(a) explore new trends in the field of sustainable blue economy & blue infrastructure,

(b) streamline project outcomes and scientific findings into new project ideas and potential proposals within and outside the EUSAIR context,

and

(c) foster project ideas to be further elaborated and financed for future implementation, either under the EUSAIR Facility Point Strategic Project or other potential sources of financing, promoting the objectives of blue economy and meeting with the EU goals for 2021-2027.

Based on the above, the EUSAIR Conference on Blue Growth aims at:

- providing an overview of the current applied research and innovation achievements in the fields of biotechnology for the sustainable development of the blue economy and the promotion of a knowledge based blue growth and an innovation eco-system;
- 2. exploring sustainability, diversification and competitiveness, as well as the needs of businesses in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors that can lead to resilience and growth;
- 3. developing capacity building and efficient coordination of planning and local development activities in order to improve marine and maritime governance and blue growth services;
- 4. boosting quadriple helix, organising direct networking opportunities and matchmaking sessions between actors, academia and businesses, thus establishing synergies and collaboration in new projects.

The conference is scheduled as a one full day event on the island of Crete, in the City of Agios Nikolaos. Experts from the competent sectors and research institutes, along with academia representatives will contribute with updated scientific results on the topics on blue biotechnology, fisheries/aquaculture and marine and maritime services. In parallel, potential project ideas will be discussed building on the outcomes and the experience from current projects. Networking among participants, speakers and the EUSAIR community will further develop a knowledge base and an exchange platform for the identification of tangible project proposals.

The Conference will provide the opportunity to explore and debate on the importance of the blue economy findings, to network with blue growth actors, as well as to prepare and elaborate blue projects within EUSAIR and a wider context.

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HELLENIC REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENTS



Monday, 24.10.2022 (9.15-16.00)

Sessions

Three priority areas are reflected in the three sessions of the Conference:

Session 1 - Fostering quadruple helix ties in the fields of marine technologies and blue bio-technologies for advancing innovation, business development and business adaptation in blue bio-economy, covers the priority 1 - Blue technologies.

The first session will deploy innovation trends and achievements in the fields of bio-technology. Blue biotechnology can represent a domain with high potential for growth in the EU blue bioeconomy. Territorial aspects appear as a fundamental tool to approach and understand precedent, current and future developments of this promising sector of the blue economy.

To this extend, the first session will deploy several topics: Prof. Marijana Zovko Koncic will address the trends in the development of new drugs and cosmeceuticals from marine organisms, since many of them, following their adaptations to the environment possess biological activities that make them promising drugs for human diseases, as well as active components in cosmetics and nutri-cosmetics. Mr. George Mantas (AquaBioTech Group, Malta) will explore innovative approaches in traditional sectors such as land based and offshore aquaculture, fish health & nutrition, aquatic research facilities Prof. Claire Hellio (University of Western Brittany Brest, France) will emphasize on the sustainable use of marine biomass, describing the «itinerary» from chemical ecology to marine biotechnology. Last but not least, Mr. Yago Sierras (CEO, Mediterranean Algae, Spain) will present the outcomes of the B-BLUE project, and introduce us to the Mediterranean Algae start-up, dealing with the challenges and opportunities of the algae industry to develop sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean.

The session will be moderated by Dr. Tina Orfanidou, (Biophysist, LDK Socio Economic Development Consultants)

Session 2 - Promoting Sustainability, Diversification and Competitiveness in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors through education, research & development, administrative, technological and marketing actions, including the promotion of initiatives on marketing standards and healthy nutritional habits, following priorities 2a - Fisheries and 2b - Aquaculture.

Resilience is broadly defined as the capacity of a system to respond to and absorb disturbance while retaining essentially the same function, structure, and feedbacks. To manage fisheries and aquaculture effectively, there is a growing need to work on the sustainability, diversification and competitiveness of the sectors.

The above topics will be thoroughly discussed in the second session. Ms Ana Štrbenac from Croatia will develop the topic of balancing the marine environment by addressing incidental catch (bycatch) of sensitive species and impacts of underwater anthropogenic noise. Her presentation will be followed by Dr. Constantinos Mylonas (Hellenic Center for Marine Research, Greece) who is invited to analyse the role of IMBBC-HCMR in supporting the Blue Bioeconomy. Finally, Ms Anat Arieli (National Planning

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Division, Israel) will move on from policy to reality describing the tools and measures in place in their country to bring about the implementation of the policy, regarding blue innovation and aquaculture.

The session will be moderated by Dr. George Triantafyllou (Hydrobiologist – Ichthyologist)

Session 3 - Bolstering capacity building and efficient coordination of planning and local development activities for improving marine and maritime governance and blue growth services, tackling priority 3 -Maritime and marine governance and services.

Marine planning has become a useful process and tool to coordinate the planning of different authorities and marine activities. Marine activities have traditionally been planned and managed in a sectoral way. Today, it has become obvious that a more holistic, multi-sectoral and coordinated approach is needed in future successful marine planning and management. The increased awareness of the importance of the seas challenges the traditional sector division and geographical limits in marine policy and calls for better coordinated and coherent marine policies and services.

In this framework, the third session will deploy a series of related topics. Dr. George Triantafyllou (HCMR) will talk about the five innovative cleaning technologies and approaches developed in the framework of the CLAIM project and the research, development and application of litter cleaning methods that are being carried out by the company MINDS, a spin-off of HCMR. Mr. Zacharias Siokouros (Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute (CMMI), Cyprus) will explore the industry and society needs as drivers for Marine and Maritime research and innovation. In a different but complementary context, Cpt Giorgos Georgoulis will deep dive in the topic of hard and soft skills developed in maritime education and training, while Mr Dimitris Vintzilaios (PPP Learn, Greece) will complement the topic of skills providing evidence on the soft skill needed in maritime industry.

The session will be moderated by Ms Laura Guelsen, (Advisor to the Secretary General of Ports, Port Policy and Maritime Investments at the Hellenic Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy).

During the event and the breaks, aside discussions and meetings will seek to bring together all actors form the blue economy eco-system in a common effort to explore synergies and complementarities in action, to find common interest in growing new project ideas (multilateral and national) and to network for establishing knowledge communities, in the fields of blue economy. Stakeholders, i.e. research institutions/academia, decision makers, public authorities, blue economy actors, private businesses, end users, etc., will be involved in an entrepreneurial discovery activity, exploring the potential for innovation and growth.





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Main outcomes expected

- >>> Access to scientific and research information and knowledge;
- Access to innovation trends information;
- >>> Access to projects' outcomes information.
- Fostering of international co-operation between blue economy actors to promote EUSAIR Blue Growth policies;
- Development of new projects within the community of EUSAIR and beyond;
- >>> Establishment of multilateral partnerships and networks.

After the completion of the Conference on Blue Growth a summary of conclusions and the outcomes of the event will be issued in order to provide further food for thought and take the results of the Conference one step beyond!

Looking forward to welcoming you in Crete!

Get connected with EUSAIR Facility Point Greece:







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Agios Nikolaos, Crete, Greece

Monday 24 October 2022





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23 October 2022

Arrival Day

20:30 – 23:00 Official dinner offered by EUSAIR Facility Point Greece at Piato Restaurant, Minoos 5, Agios Nikolaos 72100

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		24 October 2022	
	8:30 - 9:15	Registration	

	Introductory Speeches
9:15 - 10:00	Ioannis Firbas
	EUSAIR National Coordinator for ESI Funds
	General Director, National Coordination Authority for ESIF
	Ministry of Development and Investments, Greece
	Giorgos Alexakis
	Vice Governor of Crete on European & International Affairs
	Vice President of CPMR on Maritime Affairs, Greece
	Eleni Hatziyanni
	Policy Officer, DG Mare, Sea-basin Strategies, Maritime Regional
	Cooperation and Maritime Security, European Commission







Blue Biotechnologies & Innovation

10:00 - 11:30	"Marine organisms as a source of new drugs and cosmeceuticals" Dr Marijana Zovko Koncic
	Professor, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry Department of Pharmacognosy, Zagreb, Croatia
	"Land based and offshore aquaculture, fish health & nutrition, aquatic research facilities – Innovative approaches in traditional sectors"
	George Mantas
	Business Development Director, AquaBioTech Group, Malta
	"From chemical ecology to marine biotechnology, sustainable use of marine biomass"
	Claire Hellio
	Professor, University of Western Brittany Brest, France
	"B-BLUE project: blue biotechnology and Algae opportunities to boost sustainable aquaculture"
	Yago Sierras
	CEO, Mediterranean Algae, Spain
	Moderator: Tina Orfanidou
	Socio Economic Development, LDK Consultants, Athens, Greece
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee break





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Fisheries & Aquaculture "Balancing (in) the marine environment: addressing incidental 12:00 - 13:30 catch (bycatch) of sensitive species and impacts of underwater anthropogenic noise" Ana Štrbenac Director, Stenella consulting d.o.o., Croatia "The IMBBC-HCMR and its role in supporting the Blue Bioeconomy" **Constantinos Mylonas** Director, Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology & Aquaculture Hellenic Center for Marine Research, Greece "From Policy to Reality: Tools and measures used in order to bring about the implementation of the policy regarding blue innovation and aquaculture" Anat Arieli Director of Ocean and Coastline Unit National Planning Division, Israel Moderator: George Triantaphyllidis (Ph.D) Hydrobiologist - Ichthyologist, Greece Lunch Break 13:30-14:30





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Marine & Maritime services

14:30 – 16:00 "Innovative Tools and Technologies for Prevention and Management of Marine Litter for the Potential Benefit of Ecosystem Services"

George Triantafyllou

Research Director, Institute of Oceanography Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece

"Marine and Maritime R&I driven by industry and society needs"

Zacharias Siokouros Chief Executive Officer

Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute (CMMI), Cyprus

"Hard and soft skills in maritime education and training" Cpt Giorgos Georgoulis

Teaching Associate, Dep. of Shipping Trade and Transport University of the Aegean, Greece

"Soft skills in the maritime industry" Dimitris Vintzilaios

CEO, Trainer, Executive Coach PPP Learn, Greece

Moderator: Laura Guelsen

Hellenic Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, Greece





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