

# “Strengthening the Science-Practice-Policy Interface in Blue Growth”

## Developing Policy and Education Strategies

**16 - 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

*Location: Hôtel de Région, Marseilles, France*

## **REGISTRATION**

### **1. Context and objectives of the conference**

The blue economy, defined as a sustainable ocean economy that balances economic activity with preserving the long-term capacity of healthy coastal and marine ecosystems, offers enormous potential for job creation and investment in the Mediterranean. It thus contributes to human development, regional integration and stability for and in the area.

To foster this blue economy, the integration of science into policy and practice to support evidence-informed decision-making is essential. However, new technologies or innovative methodologies developed by researchers are not always widely and quickly transferred or fully exploited by all stakeholders. Therefore, **clusters** or **collaborative platforms** to bring investors, funders, industry, public sector and other stakeholders together **represent opportunities to bridge science to policy and practices frameworks** through the exchange of knowledge and data and the tackling of sea and land-based challenges jointly.

This event is organized in the framework of the InnoBlueGrowth project which main objective is to ensure the communication and capitalization activities of thematic projects dealing with Blue economy issues in the Mediterranean region in order to increase their impacts towards common identified targets. It has been creating a whole Community of blue economy actors to support the activities of the thematic projects it works with.

InnoBlueGrowth relies on pillars associated with the marine and maritime environment such as blue energies, maritime surveillance technologies, yachting business models, maritime clusters, etc. This innovative community of actors has been running now for more than 24 months, and has allowed the reinforcement of an integrated approach between blue economy projects funded by the Interreg Med Programme and transnational key stakeholders. This integrated and multi-level approach has indeed been recognized as a *sine qua non* condition to support Mediterranean clusters in their transnational activities processes, which also answers one of the main objectives of the Programme.

Through the Science-Practice-Policy Interface approach (SPPI), this capitalization and community-building event will be the opportunity to discuss ways to strengthen the SPPI in the blue economy and Blue Growth community frameworks, while highlighting the main outputs of Blue Growth projects answering this issue.

Part of the discussions will also address more thoroughly the issue of training and education for the blue economy, which will serve as a strong basis to support the Blue Growth Summer School of this upcoming July 2019. The summer school will be the occasion to focus on youth opportunities and to help bridge the qualifications discrepancy in the blue economy sector. To that end, the Community Building workshop outcomes will fuel the training and educational Summer School roadmap in terms of defining the specific theme courses and workshops that will cover several areas related to the blue growth, the analytical training programme, and the activities that will foster the team building sense among students. As such, sharing views, knowledge and experience in round-table discussions will be key to identify the blue economy challenges and opportunities to be tackled through the Summer School initiatives.

## 2. Expected outputs

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- Enhanced recommendations reflecting on the way to improve the Science-Practice-Policy interface for the blue economy in the Mediterranean
- An increased visibility of projects results to the public at all territorial levels and a stronger Blue Growth network
- The development and application of some shared basic standards and guidelines that support a sustainable blue economy
- A widened and shared knowledge among scientists, decision-makers and entrepreneurs on fundamental blue growth issues and topics
- Draft reflection axes for the Blue Growth Community Policy Paper

- Reflection axes to complement the 2019 Blue Growth Summer School approach

### 3. Target Audience

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- Multi-level decision-makers
- Funding entities
- Entrepreneurs, Experts and Researchers
- The private sector
- Interreg programme bodies (Joint Secretariat, Horizontal Projects, Modular projects and Integrated projects etc.)

### 4. Languages

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The two-days will be held in English and French (for plenary session, English only for working groups)

### Provisional agenda

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#### 1st Day: April, 16<sup>th</sup> 2019

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**08:30 – 09:00 Registration**

**09:00 - 09:30 Welcome address and outline of the first day**

Elected representative of Region Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur  
Presentation of the Blue Growth community and rationale of the event  
(CoNISMa / Plan Bleu)

**09:30 - 11:00 Science-Practice-Policy Interface: Let’s be optimistic! (1)**

Facilitator: Dr Céline Dubreuil (Plan Bleu)

Keynote speech (15’)

-> **How can clusters support cross-linkage and communication between scientific research and policy communities?**

- \* Contribution from National Technology Cluster Blue Italian Growth (CTN-BIG)
- \* Contribution from the PELAGOS project
- \* Contribution from the PROTEUS project
- \* Contribution from the 4Helix+ project

Exchange with participants (30')

**11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break**

**11:30 - 13:00 Strengthening SPPI in blue economy sectors:  
Decision-makers viewpoints**

Facilitator: tbd.

Two issues will be discussed:

- **How to ensure that decision-makers are aware of research findings in Blue economy sectors? What efficient tools are available?**
- **What are the barriers to knowledge exchange between scientists and decision-makers?**

**Panel of Local & Regional Authorities:**

- \* Piraeus Municipality
- \* Regione Emilia-Romagna
- \* Balearic Islands
- \* Government of Catalonia
- \* Municipality of Marseilles

Exchange with participants (30')

**12:30 - 14:00 Lunch - Networking**

14:00 - 16:00

## Science-Practice-Policy Interface: Tools & Levers

Facilitator: tbd.

### 1/ From Data to Knowledge

- Blue Hub
- H2020 Columbus project

Exchange with participants

### 2/ From Science to Practice

- MISTRAL project
- Neptune accelerator
- MAESTRALE project
- iBLUE project

Exchange with participants

16:00-16:30

## Coffee Break

16:30 - 18:00

## Linking Science to Policy and Practice: Towards the Blue Growth Community Policy Paper

Interviewer: Representative from the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions

Debates around the following issues:

- ***What are the further scientific developments required to enhance the development of the Blue Economy and its implementation in the Med region?***
- ***How to facilitate the integration of knowledge in the development of Blue Growth strategies?***
- ***What are the major flaws or limitations of the current policies in Maritime surveillance sector and in Blue energy sector?***
- ***What are the alternatives to the current policies? Which concrete actions can be implemented?***

Panel composed of:

\* Representative of the BlueMed Initiative

- \* Representative of the European Commission, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
- \* Representative of the European Commission Joint Research Center – ISPRA, Smart Specialization Strategies, tbc.
- \* Representative of the WestMed Initiative
- \* Representative of the EMUNI University-Slovenia
- \* Representative of the European Investment Bank

Exchange with participants

**18:00 - 20:00 Cocktail dinner**

## 2nd Day: April, 17<sup>th</sup> 2019

**09:00 - 09:30 Welcome, recap of the first day and outline of the second day**

Representatives of Plan Bleu, CPMR, NTUA

**09:30-11:00 Science-Practice-Policy Interface: Let's be optimistic! (2)**

Facilitator: tbd.

Two issues will be discussed:

- ***How to improve existing funding research programmes for Blue economy sectors?***
- ***How to facilitate access to finance for Research & Innovation projects?***

Panel composed of:

- \* Representative of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
EBRD
- \* Representative of the Greenbackers Investment Capital
- \* Representative of the Union for the Mediterranean
- \* Representative of the World Bank
- \* Representative of the European Commission, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

**11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break**

<b>11:30 - 13:00</b>	<b>Awareness raising and innovative education &amp; training models for a more efficient SPPI</b>
	<p>This session aims to share tools and practices regarding awareness raising and teaching of SPP in training centers, public administrations, and the private sector. The outlined solutions for a better take-on of SPP dynamics in everyday practice will also be transferred to the Blue Growth Summer School planned in July 2019.</p>
<b>13:00 - 14:30</b>	<b>Lunch - Networking</b>
<b>14:30 - 16:30</b>	<b>Towards the Blue Growth Summer School: Defining priority axes and outlining innovative transversal approaches to education and training schemes for skills development in blue economy sectors</b>
	<p>Participants will share views and exchange knowledge about the following proposed themes that will formulate the three thematic blocks of the Blue Growth summer school didactic program. Discussions in each round table can go one step forward, by highlighting additional modules &amp; learning experiences, which may boost the academic week.</p> <p><b>Round Table 1: Technological trends, R&amp;D and Innovation</b>  <b>Round Table 2: International relations, Funding &amp; Investments</b>  <b>Round Table 3: Sustainable technology for future societal development</b></p> <p>Wrap-up, briefing the outcomes of the discussions.</p>
<b>16:45 - 17:15</b>	<b>Conclusion &amp; next steps for the Blue Growth Community</b>
	<p>CoNISMa Interreg Med - Joint Secretariat</p>

End of meetings