

# BLUE GROWTH COMMUNITY 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Assembly and Webinar on Sustainable Blue Economy

**12 & 13 October 2021**  
*Online (CET)*

## 1. Context and objectives of the event

The second phase of the BLUE GROWTH COMMUNITY project was launched almost two years ago. Many activities related to community building, transferring, mainstreaming and strategic liaising have been implemented so far.

All the thematic working groups are being set up and starting to work on the actual transfer and mainstreaming of the community's tools.

This is a crucial period for the community considering the current transition to the upcoming Interreg Euro-MED programme and the recent release of the [European Commission's Communication on a new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU Transforming the EU's Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future](#).

It is therefore the right time to gather the members of the Community and the Advisory Board, and reflect on current and future challenges related to the development of sustainable Blue Economy.

In this context, the Community is organising its **second Annual Assembly meeting** as well as a **Webinar on Sustainable Blue Economy**, involving stakeholders from all Europe's Sea Basins.

This event is organised in the margins of the **General Assembly 2021 of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR)**. It consists of two main events:

- The **Annual Assembly of the Community**, including a **meeting of the Advisory Board**
- A **Webinar on Blue Growth "Fostering Sustainable Blue Economy within and beyond the MED"** co-organised by the Community and the CPMR, involving all the CPMR Geographical Commissions and their members

The webinar aims to share results from Projects and regional practices, exchange views, contribute to some tools and studies in particular, among the different EU sea-basins (CPMR Geographical Commissions). It also seeks to contribute with concrete experiences to the argumentation that regions and key stakeholders can play a key role in the implementation of maritime policies and in particular the new approach of the European Commission on sustainable blue economy.

The Webinar will be divided into 3 sessions:

- Innovative funding solutions (Blue funding)
- Circular Blue Economy (with a focus on the aquaculture sector)
- Blue skills (with a focus on gaps in blue economy sectors)

## 2. Expected outputs

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- Contribute to Blue Growth Community's twofold capitalisation objective (namely mainstreaming and strategic liaising) by promoting the transfer and capitalisation of the jointly elaborated tools/measures and results that explicitly target collective territorial appropriation and ownership
- Consolidate the results achieved through the thematic working groups and plan activities ahead
- Pave the way for the elaboration of the Community's report on Blue Circular Economy
- Promote the Statement on how the BGC can contribute to the achieving the objectives set by the European Commission in the Communication on a Sustainable Blue Economy

## 3. Languages

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- The meetings of the first day, Tuesday 12 October (Annual Assembly and Advisory Board meeting), will be held in **English only**.
- Interpretation from and into **English, French, Italian, Spanish and Greek** is foreseen for the Webinar that will take place on the second day, Wednesday 13 October,

#### 4. Provisional agenda (as of 7 October 2021)

##### 1st Day: 12 October 2021

09.30-13.00	<b>ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING</b>
09.30-09:45	<b>CONNECTION AND HOUSEKEEPING</b>
09.45-10.00	<b>WELCOME ADDRESS</b>
	<p><b>George Alexakis</b>, Vice-Governor, Region of Crete, Vice-President of the CPMR for maritime affairs</p> <p><b>Annibale Cutrona</b>, National Inter-University Consortium for Marine Sciences (CoNISMa), Director, BGC's Lead Partner – Introduction</p>
10.00-11.00	<b>FOCUS ON BLUE GROWTH COMMUNITY'S ACTIVITIES</b>
	<p><b>Caterina Praticò</b>, CoNISMa, BGC's coordinator</p> <p><b>Céline Dubreuil and Valentina Russo</b>, Plan Bleu &amp; IrRADIARE, Capitalisation and strategy liaising activities co-coordinators</p> <p><b>Emmanuel Maniscalco</b>, CPMR, Transferring activities coordinator</p> <p><b>Luis Miranda and Fernanda Ventura</b>, ASCAME, BGC's Communication leader</p> <p><b>Vera Bougiouri</b>, NTUA, BGC's Community Building leader</p>
11.00-11:30	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
11.30-13.00	<b>EXCHANGE WITH MEMBERS ON UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND NEEDS</b>
	<p><i>Moderator: Caterina Praticò, CoNISMa, BGC's Coordinator</i></p> <p><b>Live survey on Community members' involvement in the different activities (through Mentimeter)</b></p> <p><b>Discussion on the Position Paper (reaction to the EC's Communication on Sustainable Blue Economy)</b></p> <p><b>Testimonies from MPs/members of the community and exchange</b></p>
13.00-14:00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>

<b>14.00-16:30</b>	<b>MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD</b>
<b>14.00-15.00</b>	<b>UPDATE ON THEMATIC ACTIVITIES</b>  <b>Update on Working Groups activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Marine Renewable Energies – <b>Loukia Prentza</b>, NTUA</li> <li>➤ Blue Economy (blue circular economy and funding; aquaculture) – <b>Emmanuel Maniscalco</b>, CPMR</li> </ul>
<b>15:00-16.00</b>	<b>OPEN DISCUSSION ON UPCOMING ACTIVITIES</b>  <b>Reflection on the creation of Working Groups on Maritime Surveillance and Maritime and Coastal Tourism (including yachting and recreational boating)</b>  <b>Reflection on the future of Blue Economy in the Mediterranean (blue biotechnologies, etc.)</b>
<b>16:00-16.30</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>  <b>Conclusions and next steps</b>
<b>16.30</b>	<b>END OF DAY 1</b>

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Day: 13 October 2021

**Master of ceremony:** *Emmanuel Maniscalco*, Senior EU Programmes Officer, CPMR, BGC Transferring activities coordinator

09.00-16.00	<b>WEBINAR ON SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY: FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY WITHIN AND BEYOND THE MED</b>
09.00-09.25	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</b>  <b>Mr George Alexakis</b> , Vice-Governor, Region of Crete, Vice-President of the CPMR for maritime affairs  <b>Mr Davide Strangis</b> , Executive Director, CPMR  <b>Mr Annibale Cutrona</b> , Director, National Inter-University Consortium for Marine Sciences (CoNISMa)
09.25-09.45	<b>KEYNOTE ADDRESSES FROM EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS ON SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY</b>  <b>Mr Christos Economou</b> , Head of Unit, Sea-basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security (A.3), DG MARE  <b>Mr Bronius Markauskas</b> (LT/EA), Mayor of Klaipėda district municipality, CoR rapporteur on Sustainable blue economy and aquaculture
09.45-11.15	<b>SESSION 1 - INNOVATIVE BLUE FUNDING SOLUTIONS</b>  <u><b>Introduction and moderation:</b></u> <i>Elise Wattrelot</i> , Executive Secretary of the Atlantic Arc Commission, CPMR  <b>Presentation of BGC approach on Blue Funding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ms Anna Escoda</b>, Chief Operating Officer, ASCAME - Funding solutions for the blue economy private sector, actions, initiatives and Key results coming from BGC projects: 4HELIX+/BLUE CROWDFUNDING/ I-BLUE</li> </ul> <b>Reactions &amp; best practices/experiences from CPMR GCs by regional representatives and key territorial players</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ms Ana Pinela</b>, Senior Project Manager, Beta-I, AspBan project (EMFF) – Benchmark exercise regarding the AspBan Acceleration scheme</li> <li><b>Mr Matteo Bocci</b>, Ecorys, WestMED – Presentation of the initiative towards a Sustainable Tourism accelerator in the Mediterranean</li> <li><b>Counsellor for fishing at the County administrative board Gotland</b>, Gotland Region – Gotland experience in aquaponic projects and renewal of cod stock (<i>tbc</i>)</li> </ul> <p><i>Q&amp;A and debate</i></p>
11.15-11.30	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>



11.30-13.00

## SESSION 2 - CIRCULAR BLUE ECONOMY

**Introduction and moderation:** *Martina Bocci, t-ELIKA, expert on circular blue economy recruited by the CPMR in the framework of the BGC project*

### Presentation of BGC approach on Circular Blue Economy

- **Ms Céline Dubreuil**, Programme Director, Plan Bleu, Presentation of key results coming from EU projects: Roadmap for Sustainable Aquaculture & BLUEfasma project

### Reactions & best practices/experiences from CPMR GCs by regional representatives and key territorial players

- **Ms Magali Outters**, SCP-RAC - SwitchMED project on circular economy
- **Ms Carmen Carvalho**, Vice-President, Region of Alentejo (CCDRA) – Blue Circular Economy initiatives in the Alentejo Region (*tbc*)
- **Mr Ionut Mocanu**, General Manager, Tehnopol Galati Association, Waste Free Rivers for a Clean Black Sea Project

*Q&A and debate*

13.00-14:00

## LUNCH BREAK

14.00-15.30

## SESSION 3 - BLUE SKILLS: FOCUS ON GAPS IN BLUE ECONOMY SECTORS

**Introduction and moderation:** *Stavros Kalognomos, Executive Secretary of the Balkan & Black Sea Commission, CPMR*

### Presentation of BGC approach on Blue Skills

- **Pr Yannis Chatjigeorgiou**, NTUA, Vice Rector of Research and Lifelong Education and Coordinator of the Energy Competence Center, Presentation of key results and activities from relevant projects & BGC Summer Schools and upcoming MED Academy

### Best practices/experiences from CPMR GCs by regional representatives and key territorial players

- **Dr Maria B. Lekakou**, Professor in Maritime Economics, University of the Aegean – Sharing the experience of the MINE-EMI and iSOL-MET projects
- **Ms Tiina Perho**, Chair of the Baltic Sea Commission Maritime Working Group, Southwest Finland
- **Ms Lieselotte Verplancke**, Project Manager, SYNTRA WEST, Erasmus+ VET WIND II project - Ways to harmonise education for the wind industry across the North Sea countries

*Q&A and debate*

**15.30-16.00**

## **CONCLUSIONS**

**Mr Curzio Cervelli**, Interreg Euro-MED 21-27 transnational cooperation programme representative

**Mr Aldo Puleo**, Programme Officer, ENI CBC MED Programme

**Mr Giuseppe Sciacca**, Director for Maritime Affairs and Climate

**16.00**

**END OF DAY 2**