



Moving towards an Innovation Community on Sustainable Blue Economy in the Adriatic-Ionian region

22-24 February 2023

**Tirana International Hotel
Tirana, Albania**

and online

Day I – Wednesday, 22 February 2023

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| 9:00-9:30 | Registration |
| 9:30-10:15 | Conference opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Institutional greetings - Deputy Ministry• Mirela Muca, NASRI• Barbara Di Piazza, Head of Joint Secretariat Interreg ADRION |
| 10:15-11:00 | The BLUEAIR project: state of the art and main results <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elena Banci – Area Science Park - BLUEAIR Lead Partner |
| 11:00-11:30 | Coffee break |

11:30-12:30

Embedding transnational cooperation in the S3 across the Adriatic Ionian area: prospects and challenges

The CPR of EU Regulation cohesion package for 2021-27 at Art. 15 introduces the concept of enabling conditions. Thereinafter, among the enabling conditions, the “Good governance of national or regional smart specialisation strategy” considers “Measures for enhancing cooperation with partners outside a given Member State in priority areas supported by the smart specialisation strategy” as one of the relevant fulfilment criteria. Hence, the BlueAir project can play a substantial role and provide a platform conducive to that cooperation across the transnational area. The session is intended to discuss and deepen such potential benefits and the corresponding challenges to make them happen.

- Donato Iacobucci, Università Politecnica delle Marche
- Gorazd Jenko, Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development, Smart Specialisation Division, Slovenia
- Francesco Pinelli, Sicilian Region
- Arben Shkodra, Albanian Manufacturer Union, Secretary-General
- Marija Rajaković - Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, Croatia

Moderator: Paolo Rosso, Area Science Park external consultant

12:30-14:00

Lunch break

14:00-15:00

Transformative Actions Towards Blue Sustainable Solutions

- Christian Springer, HGK - Introduction to sustainable exploitation in ADRION
- Lenča Humerca Šolar. Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning - Maritime spatial planning of Slovenia
- Francesca Furlan, Area Science Park - Foresight for sustainable blue solutions and technologies
- Nataša Bojković. University of Beograd - Transition of inland waterway transport to sustainable solutions
- Ermelinda Kordha, University of Tirana - Innovative technologies and solutions for start-ups and value chain in Blue Economy

Moderator: Domagoj Šarić, HGK

15:00-16:00

Alignment of Institutional framework

The bottlenecks caused by inconsistent institutional frameworks in the AIR are a mayor burden to achieve a more effective and impactful cooperation for blue R&D and innovation in the region. The point is particularly relevant since the unique sea basin and the corresponding common challenges call for a coordinated sound approach across the whole area. As a matter of fact, a lot of efforts have been devoted over the time, to pursue a more coherent and aligned institutional framework. Despite these efforts, the issue is still open. The session will shed light on the progress made over the last years pursuing a more aligned institutional framework. Then, appropriate actions, measures and solutions at stake but still unaccomplished for enhancing macro-regional cooperation in blue innovation will be discussed, leveraging the potential of S3 common approach.

- Marina Petrou /Milena Krasić, EUSAIR Pillar 1 (TBC)
- Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy Greece (TBC)
- Ivan Curzolo, Italian Territorial Cohesion Agency (TBC)
- Annalisa Viezzoli, Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region
- Iztok Škerlič, Izola Municipality

Moderator: Region of Central Macedonia

Day II – Thursday, 23 February 2023

9:00-9:30 **Registrations and opening of the Second Day**

9:30-10:30 **Preparing the next generation of blue skills to match the training offer to the market needs: advanced digital, green and soft skills for future blue careers**

- Flavia Rolli, OGS-Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale, Italy
- Klodiana Gorica, University of Tirana, Albania
- Nikola Mišković, University of Zagreb, Croatia
- Simone Panfiglio, Distretto Tecnologico Trasporti Navali Commerciali e da Diporto Sicilia – Navtech, Italy
- Gorazd Jenko, Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development, Smart Specialisation Division, Slovenia

Moderator: Flavia Rolli, OGS

10:30-11:30 **Pooling relevant fundings**

- Adela Franja - Interreg Adrion funding opportunities
- DG MARE (TBC)
- Brunilda Licaj - University “Aleksandër Moisiu”, Durrës
- Vasiliki Pachi – Hellenic Ministry of Development and Investments (TBC)
- Athina Foka – Hellenic Ministry of Shipping and Maritime Affairs (TBC)

Moderator: Maria Boile, University of Piraeus

11:30-12:00 **Coffee Break**

12:00-13:00

Macroregional innovation community for the sustainable blue economy

The transition to a sustainable blue economy requires innovative technologies. A coordinated approach to various blue innovation actors and stakeholders and the promotion of transregional collaboration among them is needed to achieve this goal. In recent years, many efforts have been made to achieve closer innovation cooperation in the macro-region. The Adriatic-Ionian Innovation Community for a Sustainable Blue Economy that we are setting up in the Blueair project is intended to build on these efforts. The panel will present and discuss views on the shape and future tasks of the BlueAIR innovation community.

- Nikitas Nikitakos, University of the Aegean, Coordinator of Interreg Adrion 2014-2020 Thematic Cluster on Blue Growth and related Smart Growth
- Tina Orfanidou, EUSAIR Facility Point Greece Pillar 1 Innovation Expert
- Robert Rakar, Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce
- Slobodan Mitrović, University of Belgrade

Moderator: Peter Medica, Technology Park Ljubljana

13:00-14:00

Lunch Break

14:00-14:30

What's in front of us? Conference Conclusions and Recommendations

Open debate on the transition from challenges and opportunities to solutions towards the Blueair Innovation Community and Innovation Strategy

Chairman: Klodiana Gorica, University of Tirana



Day III – Friday 24 February 2023

09:00	Departure from Tirana International Hotel to Fish City, Elbasan
10:30-11:30	Study tour in Fish City
11:30-12:30	Presentation of the main activities of “Rozafa” Company and Fish City, related with Blue Economy Q&A section
12:30-14:30	Lunch
14:30	Return to Tirana International Hotel