

BLUE GROWTH COMMUNITY 2nd Annual Assembly and Webinar on Sustainable Blue Economy

12 & 13 October 2021
online

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:

- o The **Annual Assembly of the Community**, including a **meeting of the Advisory Board**
- o 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

- 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

- 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 6 September 2021)

1st Day: 12 October 2021

09.30-13.00	ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
09.30-09:45	WELCOME AND REGISTRATION
09.45-10.00	WELCOME ADDRESS
	<p>George Alexakis, Vice-Governor, Region of Crete, Vice-President of the CPMR for maritime affairs (<i>tbc</i>)</p> <p>Annibale Cutrona, National Inter-University Consortium for Marine Sciences (CoNISMa), Director, BGC's Lead Partner - Introduction</p>
10.00-10.30	OVERALL UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY'S ACTIVITIES
	<p>Caterina Praticò, CoNISMa, BGC's Coordinator</p> <p>Representative from ASCAME, BGC's Communication leader</p> <p>Representative from NTUA, BGC's Community Building leader</p>
10.30-11.00	FOCUS ON TRANSFERRING AND CAPITALISATION ACTIVITIES
	<p>Representative from CPMR</p> <p>Representative from Plan Bleu & IrRADIARE</p>
11.00-11:30	COFFEE BREAK
11.30-13.00	EXCHANGE WITH MEMBERS ON UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND NEEDS
	<p><i>Moderator: Caterina Praticò, CoNISMa, BGC's Coordinator</i></p> <p>Presentation of outcomes of survey shared in advance</p> <p>Testimonies from members of the community/MPs and exchange</p>
13.00-14:30	LUNCH BREAK
14.30-18:00	MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD
14.30-15.30	UPDATE ON THEMATIC ACTIVITIES

Update on Working Groups activities and approval of action plans

- Marine Renewable Energies - **Representative from NTUA**
- Blue Economy (blue circular economy and funding) - **Representative from CPMR/ASCAME**
- Maritime Surveillance - **Representative from the University of Montenegro**
- Coastal and Maritime Tourism (Yachting and recreational boating) - **Representative from IrRADIARE**

15:30-16.30 INTERACTIVE SESSION – REACTION TO WGS’ ACTION PLANS

1st part

GROUP A - Maritime Surveillance

Group B - Blue Economy

2nd part

GROUP A - Maritime & Coastal Tourism

Group B - Marine Renewable Energies

16:30-17:00 COFFEE BREAK

17.00-18.30 TRANSFERRING SESSION: LAUNCHING THE BLUE GROWTH COMMUNITY IN CRETE

Content tbd with the Region of Crete

18.30-19:00 END OF DAY 1

2nd Day: 13 October 2021

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

09.00-16.30 WEBINAR ON SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY: FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY WITHIN AND BEYOND THE MED

09.00-09.25 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Mr George Alexakis, Vice-Governor, Region of Crete, Vice-President of the CPMR for maritime affairs

Mr Davide Strangis, Executive Director, CPMR

Mr Annibale Cutrona, Director, National Inter-University Consortium for Marine Sciences (CoNISMa),

09.25-09.45

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES FROM EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS ON SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

Mr Christos Economou, Head of Unit, Sea-basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security (A.3), DG MARE (*tbc*)

Mr Bronius MARKAUSKAS (LT/EA), Mayor of Klaipėda district municipality, CoR rapporteur on Sustainable blue economy and aquaculture (*tbc*)

09.45-11.15

SESSION 1 - INNOVATIVE BLUE FUNDING SOLUTIONS

Introduction and moderation: *Elise Wattrelot*, Executive Secretary of the Atlantic Arc Commission, CPMR

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

- **Ms Fernanda Ventura**, Head of Projects Unit, ASCAME - Presentation of key results coming from EU projects: 4HELIX+ Voucher Scheme/BLUE CROWDFUNDING/ I-BLUE 3PBM
- **Representative of the Atlantic Smart Ports Blue Acceleration Network - AspBan project** on - Benchmark exercise regarding the ASPBANAspBan Acceleration scheme (*tbd*)
- **Representative of WestMED** - Presentation of the initiative towards a Tourism accelerator in the Mediterranean (*tbd*)
- **Representative of the Islands Commission or others GCs** (*tbd*)

Q&A and debate

11.15-11:30

COFFEE BREAK

11.30-13.00

SESSION 2 - CIRCULAR BLUE ECONOMY

Introduction and moderation: *expert/consultant on circular blue economy to be hired by the CPMR in September in the framework of the BGC project*

Best practices/experiences from CPMR GCs by regional representatives

- **Céline Dubreuil**, Programme Director, Plan Bleu, Presentation of key results coming from EU projects: Roadmap for Sustainable Aquaculture & BLUEfasma project
- **Representative of SCP-RAC** - SwitchMED project on circular economy (*tbd*)

- **Representative of Norte Region (Portugal)** - experience/initiative on circular economy and protection of the ocean (*tbd*)
- **Roxana Iacob**, Association for Intercommunity Development ITI Danube Delta (*tbc*)

Q&A and debate

13.00-14:30 LUNCH BREAK

14.30-16.00 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

Best practices/experiences from CPMR GCs by regional representatives

- **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
- **Representative of the Aegean University** - Sharing the experience of the MINE-EMI and iSOL-MET projects (*tbd*)
- **Representative of the Atlantic Arc/Baltic Sea Commissions** - Activities on aquaculture, EU Pact for Skills for Offshore Renewable Energy and shipbuilding (*tbd*)
- **Representative of the North Sea Commission** (*tbd*)

Q&A and debate

16.00-16.30 CONCLUSIONS

Interreg Euro-MED 21-27 transnational cooperation programme representative

Giuseppe Sciacca, Director for Maritime Affairs and Climate

16.30 END OF DAY 2