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Blue technology - Developing innovative technologies for sustainability of Adriatic Sea

DIVE INTO THE DEPTH OF OPPORTUNITIES

Online Roundtable for Policy-Makers: 18-19/02/2021

INNOVAMARE PROJECT

InnovaMare strategic project - Blue technology - Developing innovative technologies for sustainability of Adriatic Sea, coordinated by the Croatian Chamber of Economy, is co-financed by the European Union, ERDF (European Regional Development Fund), through Interreg VA Italy-Croatia Programme (2014-2020). Its aim is to enhance framework conditions at cross-border level by reinforcing capacities, both at strategical and operational level, to develop an innovation ecosystem promoting breakthrough technologies for the environmental sustainability of the Adriatic Sea, with a focus on underwater robotics and sensors. Expected outputs will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), with particular reference to Pillar 1 "Blue Growth", Topic 1 "Blue Technologies".

THE IMPORTANCE OF BLUE ECONOMY FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS

The Blue Economy includes all those activities that are marine-based or marine-related. Marine-based activities comprise Marine living resources (capture fisheries and aquaculture), Marine minerals, Marine renewable energy, Desalination, Maritime transport and Coastal tourism. Marine-related activities are linked for instance to Seafood processing, Biotechnology, Shipbuilding and repair, Port activities, technology and equipment, Digital services, etc.
As stated in the EU Blue Economy Report 2020, the Blue Economy is embedded in the overall EU economy, and the contribution of this strategic sector to the EU-28 economy in 2018 was 1.5 % in terms of GVA and 2.2 % in terms of employment. Improving the ecological status of the Adriatic Sea is a key priority both in Italy and Croatia: it is an opportunity to improve the sustainability of the cross-border territory, as well as to increase the competitiveness of enterprises, creating a technological leadership in this field. Marine pollution concerns different types of pollutant input (chemical and toxic substances, plastics and nutrients, underwater noise and other inputs from energy).
The role of underwater robotics solutions and sensors has a paramount importance for monitoring and predicting sea pollution and surveilling ports and plants, as well as natural and cultural heritage but, to fully unlock the existing potential, an effective innovation ecosystem has to be put in place, involving key stakeholders with a quadruple helix approach.

INNOVAMARE FIRST ROUNDTABLE FOR POLICY MAKERS

In the framework of WP3 "Enhancement of framework conditions by development of innovation ecosystem" of InnovaMare project, the Regional Union of the Chambers of Commerce of Veneto Region (UCV) organizes this Roundtable addressed at Policy-makers, to foster dialogue and exchange best practices in the field of Blue Economy and innovative blue technologies, enhancing cross-sectoral cooperation to support the creation of favourable framework conditions for a cross-border innovation ecosystem enabling growth, competitiveness and technological leadership in the field of underwater robotics and sensors. The first working day (18/02) will be dedicated to plenary sessions for policy-makers, favouring debate on main strategic topics, identified also taking into consideration the recent Report of the EU Mission Board Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters. During the second day (19/02), thematic cross-sectoral focus groups will be organized, stimulating sharing of best practices for solving identified challenges, involving representatives from public bodies, academia and private sector.

ORGANIZER OF THE ROUNDTABLE: Regional Union of the Chambers of Commerce of Veneto Region (UCV)
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With the support of MERAKI srl, Ilaria Marcolin and Valentina Colleselli, E-mails: progetti@merakisrl.eu, v.colleselli@merakisrl.eu

THURSDAY, 18/02/2021 – Morning session

11.00 – 11.20

Welcome greetings - Opening speech by *Roberto Crosta, Secretary General of Regional Union of the Chambers of Commerce of Veneto Region (partner of InnovaMare project)*
Presentation of InnovaMare project – *Mateo Ivanac, Croatian Chamber of Economy (Lead Partner of InnovaMare project)*
Introduction to the agenda by the moderators - *Guido Bortoluzzi (UNITS - University of Trieste, partner of InnovaMare) and Martina Rossi (Mare FVG, partner of InnovaMare project)*

11.20 – 11.40

Vulnerability of marine habitats in EU policies and the key role of Blue Economy
Marine habitats are very complex and fragile ecosystems, vulnerable to pollution, overfishing and other human activities interfering with their sustainability. Ecosystems regeneration enables halting the loss of biodiversity, while at the same time impulsing the development of key Blue Economy sectors
EU priorities for the protection of marine habitats – *Vedran Nikolić, European Commission, DG Environment, Unit D3 – Nature protection*
The strategic role of Blue Economy and blue technologies – *Eleni Hatziyanni, European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries - Sea-basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security*

11.40 – 12.00

Zero Pollution strategies and tools for the Adriatic Sea
The Adriatic Sea's sustainability and good ecological status is linked to the reduction of the presence of plastics and micro plastics, persistent organic and non-organic pollutants, spillages, wastewaters. Monitoring of key indicators allows for designing appropriate mitigation measures
The pollution of the Adriatic Sea – *Neven Cukrov and Marina Mlakar, RUĐER BOŠKOVIĆ INSTITUTE – Division for Marine and Environmental Research (Partner of InnovaMare)*
Tools for the environmental monitoring of the Adriatic Sea – *Lorna Vatta, ARTES 4.0, Competence Centre on Advanced Robotics and enabling digital Technologies & Systems*

12.00 – 12.20

Application of robotics and sensors for the protection of underwater cultural heritage
The UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage calls on States to better protect their submerged cultural heritage, investing in research, development and innovation in this field. Robotics and sensors can be exploited also in this key application field.
The UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage – *Rita Auriemma, University of Salento*
Underwater robotic and sensing systems for Cultural Heritage discovery, conservation and in situ valorization – *Chiara Petrioli, University La Sapienza, W•SENSE S.r.l.*

12.20 – 12.30

Questions&Answers and closure of the morning session by the moderators

THURSDAY, 18/02/2021 – Afternoon session

14.00 – 14.10 **Introduction to the working session by the moderators** - *Guido Bortoluzzi (University of Trieste, partner of InnovaMare) and Valentina De Marchi (University of Padua)*

14.10 – 14.40 **Better governance of the Adriatic in the 2021-2027 programming period**
The need to strengthen European capacity to pre-empt and address environmental challenges affecting people, activities, habitats and infrastructure in the maritime domain, calls for integrated strategies and capacity-building actions
Anna Franco, Veneto Region, Territorial Cooperation and EU Marco-regional strategies
Josip Bilaver - State secretary in the Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure TBC
Lodovico Gherardi - Coordinator of the Managing Authority Unit of the Adriatic Ionian Programme 2014-2020, Emilia-Romagna - Region

14.40 – 15.00 **Creating Ecosystems favouring innovation and technology transfer**
Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) can help ensure that every company, small or large, high-tech or not, can take advantage of digital opportunities. DIHs are one-stop shops that help companies become more competitive with regard to their business/production processes, products or services using digital technologies. DIHs provide access to technical expertise and experimentation, so that companies can "test before invest" with a quadruple helix approach
What is a a Digital Innovation Hub (DIH)? *-Davorka Moslavac Forjan, Innovation Centre Nikola Tesla (ICENT)*
The creation of a DIH – *Marco Galanti, T2i Trasferimento Tecnologico Innovazione S.c.a.r.l*

15.00 – 15.20 **Engaging, inspiring and motivating citizens to care for our Seas**
Citizens need to consider waters as a common good. Civil society participation is key to ensure a successful effort to improve the sustainability of the Adriatic Sea
EU4Ocean Coalition for Ocean Literacy *– Pierre Strosser, ACTeon*
Citizens' Engagement activities of Legambiente in Italy *- Elisa Scocchera, Legambiente*

15.20 – 15.30 **Summary of key challenges and opportunities**
The moderators will summarize the main challenges that cross-border policy makers will have to cope with, in preparation for the thematic working groups which will present best practices and possible solutions to tackle identified problems

FRIDAY, 19/02/2021 – PRESENTATION OF BEST PRACTICES ON UNDERWATER ROBOTICS AND SENSORS AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

11.00 – 11.10	**Introduction to the agenda and rules for participation** – *Mateo Ivanac (Croatian Chamber of Economy, LP of InnovaMare) and Martina Rossi (Mare FVG)*
11.10 – 11.30	**Sea monitoring and prediction through underwater robotics and sensors** Presentation of best practices from academia and private sector **Marine Robotics for sea monitoring in the Adriatic Sea** – *Ivana Palunko, University of Dubrovnik (Partner of InnovaMare)* **netH20 Smart Buoy** – *Michele Grassi, Elements Works S.r.l.*
11.30 – 11.50	**Ports and offshore plants surveillance through underwater robotics and sensors** Presentation of best practices from academia and private sector **R&D for surveillance of ports and offshore plants** - *Marco Bibuli, CNR National Centre of Research (10 minutes)* **Technological innovation for above water and underwater surveillance** – *Stefano Gelli, Leonardo S.p.A. (10 minutes)*
11.50-12.00	**Questions&Answers** and closure of the morning session for the lunch break
14.00 – 14.50	**Services and impacts related to Innovation Ecosystems and DIHs** Presentation of best practices in Italy, Croatia and Europe (10 minutes each) **MEDISDIH Apulian Mechatronics Technological Cluster and Digital Innovation Hub** – *Mario Ricco* **CROBOHUB Croatian Robotics Digital Innovation Hub** - *Davorka Moslavac Forjan, Innovation Centre Nikola Tesla (ICENT)* **Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Applied Underwater Robotics Laboratory** - *Martin Ludvigsen* **Enter Espoo Oy (Finland)** - *Glenn Gassen* **BLUEAIR project, Blue Growth Smart Adriatic Ionian S3** - *Elena Banci, AREA Science Park*
14.50 – 15.00	**Final debate coordinated by the moderators** *Mateo Ivanac, Croatian Chamber of Economy. Valentina De Marchi (UNIPD)*

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