

**5<sup>th</sup> Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference 2018**  
**Vigo, Spain, 23-24 October 2018**

**“Blue Economy in the Atlantic area**  
**Fostering sustainable jobs, competitive skills and career”**

*(draft agenda v.1)*

Venue: [Mar De Vigo](#)

**Day 1 – 23rd October 2018**

**08.00 - 09.00 – Registration**

**09.00 - 09.15 – Welcome addresses by the local authorities**

- President of the Port of Vigo
- Mayor of Vigo
- President of the Autonomous Community of Galicia

**09.15 - 09.45 – Formal inauguration of the Conference**

- Representative of the Committee of the Regions (tbc)
- Representative/s of the European Parliament (tbc)
- Secretary of State of Europeans Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (Spanish responsible of Integrated Maritime Policy)
- Commissioner of Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (tbc)
- Spanish Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment

**09.45-10.30 – Award Ceremony**

The Atlantic Project Awards will be granted to five projects that fall under the umbrella of the Atlantic Strategy and the priorities of its action plan, i.e. *Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Atlantic Marine and Coastal Environment, Accessibility and Connectivity, Sustainability and International Cooperation*.

**10.30-11.15 – Coffee Break and exhibition stands**

An exhibition area with host about 40 exhibition stands (award project winners, networks and organizations, key stakeholders among which workshop organizers, other stakeholders exhibiting documentation, promotional material, and videos) and the Support Team Help Desk.

**11.15-13.00 – Plenary opening session**

The plenary opening session will centre on the avenues to pursue a maritime career in the vibrant blue economy of the Atlantic region. Questions such as *how to create sustainable blue jobs, how to upgrade skills and embrace innovation, what EU funds are available for blue growth initiatives* will be at the heart of the discussion. This session will be structured around two successive interactive panels entitled *“Blue jobs of the future”* and *“Investment in the blue economy”*. Speakers representing managing authorities of EU funds, training and education organisations, business managers and innovative projects i.e. a joint presentation of an EU pilot project on ocean literacy with focus on European Blue Schools Network will animate the debate.

**13.00-14.00 – Lunch and exhibition stands**

**14.00-17.30 – Matchmaking and B2B meetings forum - dedicated session organized by Europe Enterprise Network**

A half-day business-to-business (B2B) networking session, organised by the Enterprise Europe Network, will bring together managers of maritime business, entrepreneurs and related community of professionals looking for partners to take their projects forward.

Participants will have the possibility to share their partnership offers or requests and schedule meetings in advance.

**17.30 – Conference cocktail** (location tbd)

## **Day 2 -24th October 2018**

**09.30-10.30 – Atlantic Area Programme** (plenary session-tbc)

This session will be dedicated to the contribution of the Atlantic Area Programme to the Atlantic Action Plan including presentation of good investment practices to the blue economy in skills, employment and innovation.

**10.30-11.00 – Coffee Break, exhibition stands**

**11.00-12.30 – First round of four parallel workshop sessions**

Two rounds of four parallel workshops will debate relevant topics in the context of the conference theme *“Blue Economy in the Atlantic area: Fostering sustainable jobs, competitive skills and career”*. The workshops will be selected after an open call for applications published on the [website](#).

**11.00-12.30 – Meeting of the managing authorities of EU funds in the Atlantic area** (*closed session*)

Working meeting dedicated to managing authorities of European Structural and Investments Funds (ESIF): *“Contribution of ESIF programmes to the implementation of the Atlantic Action Plan”*

**12.30-13.30 – Lunch and exhibition stands**

**13.30-15.00 – Second round of four parallel workshop sessions**

**15.00-15.15 – Coffee Break, exhibition stands**

**15.15-15.45 – Closing words**

The Atlantic Strategy Group 2018 Spanish Presidency, the next Atlantic Strategy Group 2019 Presidency and a representative from the European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries will then close the Conference.

**15.45 – Field visit to Port of Vigo** (tbd)