



Smart Specialisation for Sustainable Blue Economy

25th October 2022

Wyndham Grand Crete Mirabello Bay, Hania 721 00 Agios Nikolaos and online

Overall framework

In May 2021 the Communication on Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) was adopted as integral part of the European Green Deal.

DG MARE has identified **Smart specialisation strategies (S3) as a key tool to implement the Communication**. In fact S3 represent a key opportunity, not only to prioritise regional research and innovation investments in blue economy sectors, but also to promote interregional partnerships and blue economy value chains across borders. Accordingly, **DG MARE in cooperation with DG REGIO, is setting up the S3 thematic platform for sustainable blue economy to support interregional partnerships and value chains** thus facilitating the cooperation among blue economy 4 helix stakeholders.

Background

S3 are a useful tool to support transition towards a sustainable blue economy by creating the necessary innovation ecosystems in Member States and Regions while promoting investments that boost the competitiveness of blue economy sectors.

DG MARE has organised a series of **five dedicated brokerage events** on:

1. **Blue Biotechnology** 9th May 2022, Barcelona Spain
2. **Marine Renewable Energies** 10th May 2022, Santander Spain
3. **Coastal and Maritime Tourism** 15th June 2022, Helsingborg Sweden
4. **Aquaculture** 21st June 2022, Brussels Belgium
5. **Fishery** 1st July 2022, Brussels Belgium.

All events were hybrid, **addressing the S3 helix** blue economy stakeholders: regional and national authorities, SMEs/start-ups/industry, clusters/business hubs, universities and research institutes, innovation and technological transfer entities, experts on technological transfer/internationalization and scale-up.

Specific objectives and target audience

In addition to the outcomes of the five brokerage session, **the event will further support the participants** exchanging their manifestation of interest for potential innovative value chains in respect to the opportunities offered by financial instruments.

The event is also willing **to present the recently launched S3 thematic platform for Sustainable Blue Economy and share with the stakeholders how they can profit of it** to improve their capacities to implement S3 strategies and actively participate to interregional S3 partnerships and value chains.

In this line, **DG MARE is also focusing on fostering the active participation of the regions** as the key enablers of the quadruple helix, as well as to **progress on the creation of synergies with cooperative frameworks** such as the **seabasin and macroregional strategies and networks**, by **sharing S3 concept and the set up of the new thematic platform with non European and accession countries** as well.



DRAFT AGENDA (all times local)

1st Session: Welcome addresses and Introduction

- 09:00 - 09:30 *Registrations and Welcome Coffee*
- 09:30 - 09:40 **Welcome and short introduction on the objectives of the event**
Stavros ARNAOUTAKIS, Regional Governor of Crete (Greece) (5 min)
George ALEXAKIS, Crete Vice Governor for European and International Affairs, CPMR Vice President on Maritime Affairs (Greece) (5 min)

2nd Session: Outcome of S3 brokerage events and further perspectives

Moderated by DG MARE

- 09:40 - 09:50 **Presentation of the outcomes of the five brokerage events (DG MARE)**
On blue biotechnology, marine renewable energies, coastal & maritime tourism, aquaculture, fishery
- 09:50 - 10:10 **The new thematic platform on Sustainable Blue Economy**
Views from DG MARE (10 min)
Services and stakeholders support (DG REGIO)(10 min)
- 10:10 - 10:20 **Innovation in ETC Programmes _ Creating Synergies (DG REGIO) (10 min)**
- 10:20 - 10:35 *Debate*
- 10:35 - 11:15 **Fostering synergies with cooperative frameworks (40 min)**
Interventions from EU sea basins and macro regional strategies representatives and UfM
- 11:15- 11:45 Discussion with the participants
- 11:45-12:00 *Coffee break*

3rd Session: Open discussion:

Promotion of interregional value chains on Sustainable Blue Economy

All participants, moderated by CPMR

- 12:00 13:00 Blue Biotechnology
- 13:00-14:15 *Lunch on site*
- 14:15-15:15 Marine Renewable Energies
- 15:15- 16:15 Coastal Maritime Tourism
- 16:15-16:25 *Coffee break*
- 16:25-17:25 Aquaculture
- 17:25-18:25 Fishery
- 18:25-18:35 *short break*

Wrapping-up

- 18:35-19:00 **Main outcomes and conclusions**
CPMR
DG MARE, DG REGIO
- 20.30 **Dinner hosted by Crete Region.** Venue: tbc