

Fostering the blue economy in the Atlantic: education and training strategy

NATIONAL VIRTUAL SEMINAR OF THE ATLANTIC ACTION PLAN ASSISTANCE MECHANISM

22nd May 2020 – 11.00-13.00 (CET)

General Summary

On May 22, 2020, the Atlantic Virtual National Seminar was held on the theme of "Education and Training in the Blue Economy", also known as Blue Skills.



National Virtual Seminar

22nd MAY, 2020

Time 11.00-13h (CET)

Fostering the blue economy in the Atlantic: education and training strategy

**NATIONAL VIRTUAL SEMINAR
OF THE ATLANTIC ACTION PLAN**

Info: nationalhubspain@atlanticstrategy.eu

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES, UNIÓN EUROPEA Y COOPERACIÓN

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA, PESCA Y ALIMENTACIÓN

ATLANTIC ACTION PLAN
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The seminar was organized by the [Assistance Mechanism](#) of the [Atlantic Action Plan](#) through the [Spanish National Hub](#) (Dr. Marta Pascual) and was co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the Government of Spain as National Coordinators of the Atlantic Action Plan.

The objective of the Seminar was to analyze:

- ✚ What is the current status of the Blue Skills in Spain?
- ✚ What efforts are being made?
- ✚ What education and training capabilities are lacking?
- ✚ How can skills and capacities be developed in order to achieve a sustainable and efficient blue economy in Spain?

To proceed with this analysis, a selection of 4 projects were presented, which address the theme of the Blue Skills and have Spanish coordinators and / or participants in their consortia. The projects presented were: [ErasmusMates](#) (presented by [CETMAR](#)), [Emporia4KT](#) (presented by [CEIMAR](#)), [Actuazul Program](#) (presented by [CEPESCA](#)) and [Oceani3](#) (presented by the [Euskampus Foundation](#)) ([Agenda](#)).

The seminar began with a brief introduction and presentation by the National Coordinators of the Atlantic Action Plan who presented the attendees with the progress of the new Atlantic Action Plan. The Spanish National Hub of the Assistance Mechanism of the Atlantic Action Plan then presented the work that the Assistance Mechanism is carrying out in the Spanish part of the Atlantic and offered its services and assistance to the participants. Attendees were also informed about the [Atlantic Project Awards](#) to which Spanish agents can still send their projects until June 18, 2020.

After the introduction, the ErasmusMates, Emporia4KT, Actuazul Program and Ocean i3 projects were presented. The presentations focused on answering the following questions:

- ✚ How does your project deal with education and training in the blue economy?
- ✚ What education and training needs have you discovered regarding the blue economy in the Atlantic?
- ✚ What aspects of your project would you highlight that could be extended to other territories?

The CETMAR Foundation, through the presentation by Mrs. Lucía Fraga entitled "*Maritime Alliance to promote the European blue economy through a strategy of marine technological skills*", highlighted the capacity and strategy of the ErasmusMates project to coordinate demand and the supply of capacities in the shipbuilding and marine renewable energy sectors in terms of digital, environmental, gender equality, training standards and ocean governance and culture, with the ultimate goal of promoting the competitiveness of these sectors in blue economy.

As barriers to education and training in shipbuilding and renewable energy, CETMAR highlighted the scarce bilingual training offer in shipbuilding as well as the lack of specific courses for renewable energy.

Regarding the study of the needs of the shipbuilding and marine renewable energy sectors, transversal and digital capacities such as knowledge and transfer management, collaboration and communication capacities, data analysis, artificial intelligence were highlighted. , big data analysis and remote control, among others, as needs of qualities sought for positions in the naval sector. Likewise, in the renewable energy sector, the qualities rather than the specific capacities of workers to carry out activities or tasks were also highlighted to a greater extent.

As an example of good practices, the MOL2 - Galicia pilot experience (challenge-based experience) was explained within the ErasmusMates Project, and the conclusions and barriers identified through the ErasmusMates Project highlighted: the need for training in new skills, the need of a specialized training offer adapted to the marine sectors, the need to establish mechanisms to complete training itineraries, the need to create a greater ocean culture in training offers, the need to obtain a single point of information with training offers, the need to address language barriers to have greater access to foreign training and mobility and the need to create capacity ecosystems, knowledge exchange platforms and materials that facilitate education and training in matters of blue economy omo barreras a la formación y capacitación en la construcción naval y en las energías renovables, CETMAR destacó la escasa oferta formativa bilingüe en la construcción naval así como la falta de existencia de cursos específicos para las energías renovables.

Next, the CEIMAR Foundation, through the presentation by Mr. Juan M. Vidal Pérez entitled "*Empowerment of researchers, transfer of products and innovations and promotion of the triple helix*", presented the important work of the foundation as an entity that promotes the union of various agents in strategic aggregations, centers of excellence, companies, etc.

CEIMAR in turn presented the Emporia4KT project, which aims to boost the transfer of knowledge from the academic field to the productive fabric (i.e. the companies that generate such productivity) in order to increase the competitiveness of the regions of the Atlantic Area. The project highlighted its work of creating links between institutional bodies, the academy and research, and industry and companies through personalized activities and workshops aimed at national agents (bootcamp) with the aim of connecting the academy and results obtained through research with the productive fabric in a productive and effective way. The project aims to develop a training action program to design training and training routes in the blue economy, by promoting innovative pedagogies and practical training oriented to the labor market to reduce the gap between the supply and demand for training. Likewise, Emporia4KT intends to prepare a white paper with political, technical and instrument recommendations, which gathers the needs, key factors and the main barriers of the private sector, personal and professional skills and capacities necessary for effective collaboration between the Academy, the Industry and Public Administration.

Among the main barriers found by CEIMAR for the transfer of knowledge between academia and industry, the still scarce culture of collaboration between academia and industry, the mutual ignorance about the offer of the former and the needs of the market, the lack of knowledge of the market and employment opportunities offered by the sectors of the blue economy, the low visibility of the knowledge results generated, gaps in legislation (especially in emerging sectors), the imbalance between the risk margin assumed by the triple helix agents and low investment in R&D infrastructures (especially geared towards technological collaboration in SMEs in sectors of the blue economy).

The following presentation was given by CEPESCA, through the presentation of Mrs. Nadia Moalla Gil entitled "*Advancing education and training in the blue economy: contributions from the fishing sector*", she highlighted the work carried out by CEPESCA in non-regulated training as a niche in the fishing sector in order to enhance digital skills, promote adult training and address the lack of communication between education and industry.

Ms. Moalla presented 3 projects: the Fish-Recycle project, the Actuazul program and the MarEnet project as examples of the work that CEPESPA carries out on the subject of Blue Skills applied to the fishing sector.

The Fish-Recycle project (2018) aimed to improve technical skills to reduce marine pollution and improve employability and diversification in the fishing sector. This project managed to improve employability, it responded to the needs of the sector.

The Actuazul program is a current strategy that seeks to train and train the main users and managers of the Marine Natura 2000 Network in 6 key competences, among which CEPESCA is in charge of training in sustainability competencies in the themes of fisheries diversification (transformation and marketing and marine tourism), revitalization of traditional sectors (blue marketing, waste management and actions in coastal areas) and the renewal of skills (innovation, branding and energy efficiency).

Likewise, the MarEnet project: Atlantic Maritime Ecosystem Network (EMFF), seeks to strengthen the industry-education relationship through an analysis of the disconnection between training plans and the labor market, reinforce skills in the blue economy, the implementation of the Atlantic Maritime Knowledge Network and the promotion of blue entrepreneurship programs.

CEPESCA highlighted in its conclusions some of the barriers that still have to be overcome in the area of Blue Skills, such as: the need to bet on an integrated training strategy for the Atlantic area, the need to adapt the skills to the training level and context of the target population, the need to consolidate knowledge and make it available to all (open access repository) and the need to attract investment and interest from the private sector in order to reinforce those skills that are most in demand.

The last of the presentations was given by the Euskampus Foundation where Mr. Igor Campillo, director of the foundation, explained what the foundation consists of, its origins and its main objective of becoming a catalyst for interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary collaboration. agent with the aim of improving the co-leadership of the partners, from the Basque Country and New Aquitaine, in territorial and international development, producing local responses with a high socio-economic value to global challenges. As an important part of the foundation, Mr. Campillo highlighted the Euskampus-Bordeaux Cross-Border Campus which has an action plan focused on education, R & D & I, international communication and projection, regional development and governance, management and dynamization.

Next, Ms. Julieta Barrenechea (responsible for the Ocean i3 project) presented her paper entitled "A cross-border project of educational innovation for ocean sustainability", where she explained the Oceani3 project, an education, employability and entrepreneurship project within the framework of the Euskampus-Bordeaux Cross-Border Campus, which since January 2020 has obtained financing from Interreg POCTEFA.

The Oceani3 project seeks to produce knowledge oriented to real challenges and problems of the transboundary coastline while seeking to develop and train skills for the employability of undergraduate and graduate university students in the blue economy. The students are presented with 6 territorial challenges, such as the "Reduction of ocean pollution by plastics on the Basque-Aquitaine coast", with the aim of putting into action skills and abilities which are adapted according to the needs in collaborative spaces.

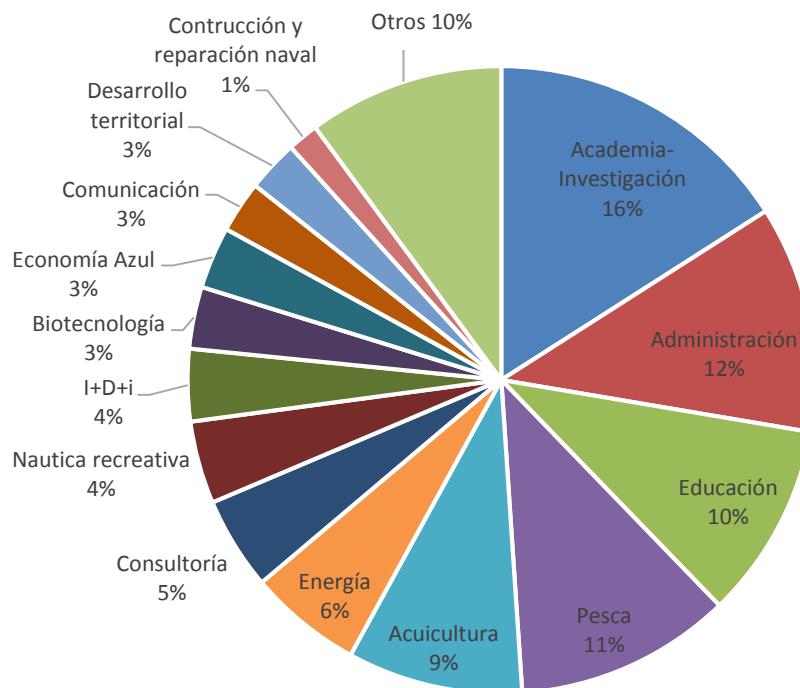
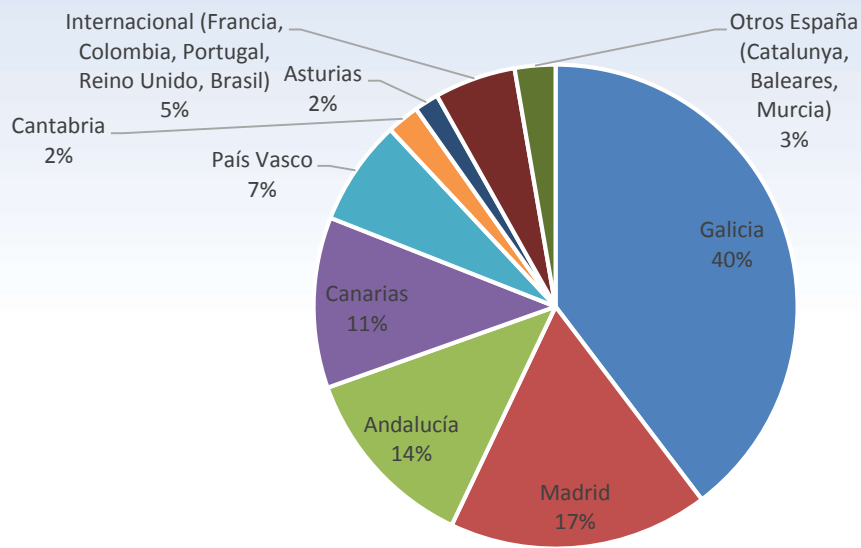
The project thus achieves an effective immersion of the students in the territory, with real projects that are located at the center of the relationship between learning and employability, promotes interdisciplinary training and develops a continuous process of observation in order to identify and promote employable blue skills.

In this way, the universities act as active agents in shaping the employability of the territory in order to configure opportunities and the employability of their students.

Participation Analysis:

A total of 183 people registered for the event (172 from Spain + 11 Internationals) of which 108 finally connected and around 99 people attended the entire course of the seminar.

Among the participants we find representativeness between autonomous communities of the Atlantic and the maritime sectors present in the different communities.



Note: "Others = metallurgy, naval, ports, tourism, recreational activities, CC, cooperation, marine geotechnics, marine environment management, engineering, intergovernmental, supplies, maritime transport".

The seminar brought together a total of 111 organizations / institutions / agencies from Spain and 9 international organizations / institutions / agencies. The list of represented organizations can be found through the following [link](#).

Questions and answers:

During the course of the Seminar the participants were able to ask questions to the speakers through the [Slido](#) application with the Event Code #Blue and the most voted questions were chosen and answered in the final part of the seminar in the questions and answers section.



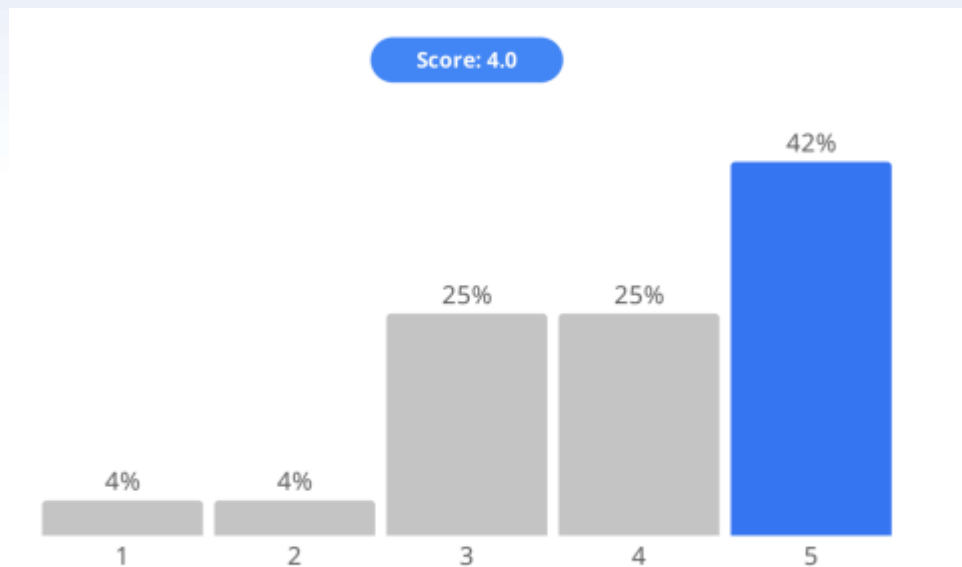
Participants were also able to answer a series of questions that we proposed to them through the Polls section of Slido.

Among the responses to highlight, we asked attendees to please describe in one word the current status of the Blue Skills in Spain. The following image summarizes the suggested word cloud where the largest sizes are the most selected ones.



As it is observed, the participants think that the status of the Blue Skills is insufficient.

As a seminar evaluation score, the participants who answered in Slido gave a 4 out of 5 as an evaluation average.



The rest of the Slido results can be accessed through the following [link](#).