



Smart Specialisation for Sustainable Blue Economy Workshop

6 July 2021

09:00 – 12:45 CET

Virtual Event

Event's Concept

Smart specialisation strategies (S3) are a useful tool to support transition towards a sustainable blue economy by creating the necessary innovation ecosystems in Member States and Regions. This also by promoting the exchange of know-how/lesson learned, facilitating the creation of a blue economy community of S3 quadruple helix stakeholders and supporting the development of future blue economy based interregional innovation partnerships. In addition, smart specialisation can reinforce regional cooperation in the framework of the EU sea-basins and macro-regional strategies as well as develop complementarities and synergies with the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF).

DG MARE and JRC, in cooperation with DG REGIO, are organising a joint workshop to support the development of a S3 community in the field of blue economy. A dedicated S3 Blue Economy community will support a shared understanding of the smart specialisation concept as well as the appropriate advanced development and implementation tools through a continuous mutual learning process and knowledge sharing, based on trans-regional exchange of experiences between stakeholders, including policy makers. This community will also facilitate the exchanges among new potential blue economy interregional partnerships and hence support EU blue economy value chains.

The event builds on the bases laid by the “Blue Growth Cooperation” workshop, which took place in the framework of the 2020 European Week of Regions and Cities that served as an initial engagement of European stakeholders around some traditional and emerging blue economy sectors.

This new appointment aims at building further the cooperation among Member States and Regions on smart specialisation in the area of blue economy, by looking into the lessons learnt in the period 2014-2020 and exploring potential for new blue economy interregional partnerships/communities. The event will also discuss smart specialisation as enabler of regional dynamics within EU macro regional and sea basin strategies and how specific tools, such as Horizon Missions and the BlueInvest platform, can support interregional innovation partnerships.

DRAFT AGENDA

6 July 2021, 9:00-12:45 CET

09:00-09:15 *Welcome and short introduction of the workshop* (Christos Economou, DG MARE/Xabier Goenaga, JRC/Peter Berkowitz, DG REGIO)

Building on Experience

09:15-09:25 *Lessons learnt from the 2014-2020 S3 Interregional Cooperation* (Karel Haegemann, JRC)

09:25-09:50 *Peer Learning Panel Discussion – What does it take to create successful blue economy innovation and investments ecosystem around maritime-related S3 priorities?*
George Alexakis, Region Crete (GR)/Jessica Hjerpe Olausson, Region Västra Götaland (SE)/Cristina Oyon, Basque Country (ES)/Ilaria Re, Bio-Economy Vanguard (IT)

09:50-10:10 *I3 instrument and next calls for Interregional S3 cooperation* (Valentina Pinna, DG REGIO) - Q&A

Preparing the future

10:10-11:40 *Brokerage for S3 interregional partnerships for Sustainable Blue Economy – Part 1*
Short intro of the session followed by 5' Intro presentation and 15' open floor discussion for regions to express interest for active engagement in blue economy interregional partnerships

10:10-10:30 **Marine Renewable Energy** (Cristina Oyon, ADME/Vanguard, SPRI, Basque Country, ES)

10:30-10:50 **Coastal and Maritime Tourism** (Cristina Nuñez, Network Coordinator NECSTouR, BE)

10:50-11:00 *Break*

11:00-11:40 *Brokerage for S3 interregional partnerships for Sustainable Blue Economy – Part 2*
Short intro of the session followed by 5' Intro presentation and 15' open floor discussion for regions to express interest for active engagement in blue economy interregional partnerships

11:00-11:20 **Bio-Economy for Blue Biotech** (Ilaria Re, Ital Biotech/Bio-Economy Vanguard, IT)

11:20-11:40 **Aquaculture and Fisheries** (Alexandra C.S. Garcia Guerreiro, Region Azores/ Ruben Eiras, Fórum Oceano, PT)

Interregional S3 cooperation: Role of Macro-regional and Sea-Basin Strategies, New Horizon Missions and the BlueInvest Platform

11:40-12:10 *Testimonies from the Macro-Regional Strategy EUSAIR and Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy*
Milena Krasic, Deputy Coordinator Adriatic-Ionian Strategy EUSAIR Pillar "Blue Growth"
Helena Vieira, Atlantic Strategy Committee
Gaetano Armao, Vice-President of Sicily Region (IT)
Teresa Almeida President of Lisbon Region (PT)
Q&A

12:10-12:40 *How to position partnerships for interregional innovation projects/investments to benefit from tools such as the Horizon Ocean Mission and the BlueInvest platform* (Claus Schultze, DG MARE)
Q&A

12:40-12:45 *Wrapping-up* (Christos Economou, DG MARE – Xabier Goenaga, JRC)