
SEArica Conference on Blue Skills

Organised with the support of the [Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions](#)

Monday 23 May 2022 14.00-16.00 (Brussels time)

Online meeting

Registrations: [CLICK HERE](#)

A competitive, resilient, and socially fair blue economy needs highly qualified and skilled professionals. Yet today, many blue economy sectors have difficulties finding the right people, which hampers their growth. Within the shift towards a sustainable blue economy approach lie great opportunities for maritime and island regions. To seize these opportunities and to make the sustainable transition as well as generational renewal a success, a revolution in blue skills is needed.

EU maritime regions are supporting actions to solve this mismatch and:

- reduce the skills gap between education offers and labour market needs;
- improve communication and cooperation between education and industry;
- improve the attractiveness and awareness of career opportunities in the blue economy;
- improve the ocean literacy culture at the basis of it all.

The SEArica conference aims to bring together representatives from EU coastal regions, stakeholders from maritime territories, EU Commission officials, Members of the EU Parliament, and Young Ocean Ambassadors to discuss about needed actions in terms of Blue Skills and the implementation of the many initiatives and proposals that are currently being put forward.

AGENDA

Moderation by CPMR

14:00-14:10 Opening: MEP Carmen Avram, SEArica Vice-Chair for the Danube and the Black Sea

14:10-14:20 Keynote speech: Mr Andy Kontoudakis, Policy Officer for Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment, DG MARE

14:20-15:30 Input by CPMR regions on the initiatives proposed by the EU Commission and on measures implemented on the ground

- **Mr George Alexakis**, Regional Councillor of Crete, in charge of European and International Affairs, CPMR Vice-President for Maritime Affairs
- **Ms Stéphanie Bordenave**, La Rochelle University, Nouvelle Aquitaine Region, CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission, Chair of the AAC Maritime Skills Working Group

INTERGROUP SEAS, RIVERS, ISLANDS AND COASTAL AREAS



- **Ms Lucia Fraga**, Head of the Training Department, CETMAR foundation, Galicia Region, CPMR Atlantic Arc Commission
- **Mr Juha Valtanen**, Senior Advisor, Turku University of Applied Sciences, SouthWest Finland, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission
- **Professor Maria Lekakou**, University of the Aegean (Greece), presenting the [MINE-EMI and iSOL-MET Projects](#), CPMR Balkan & Black Sea Commission
- **Ms Pinar Uygurer**, Project Manager at Institute of Marine Sciences, METU (Turkey) presenting the [BRIDGE-BS Project](#), CPMR Balkan & Black Sea Commission
- **Ms Judith Kirton-Darling**, Deputy General Secretary, IndustriALL – reactions from the workers of maritime sectors
- **Ms Maria Zanenghi**, Policy Officer, OGS - National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics, **Friuli Venezia Giulia** - Lead Partner of the Blue Skills project, promoting career opportunities in the maritime sector via capacity-building and skills development

15:30-15:45 Reactions by Youth organisations from 4 sea basins

- **Mr Gauthier Moinet**, Belgium, North Sea area, [Eurocean's Youth Ambassador](#)
- **Ms Dijana Catakovic**, Slovenia, Mediterranean area, [Eurocean's Youth Ambassador](#)
- **Ms Naomi Cordiez Sedivy**, [Mediterranean Youth Council](#) of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission

15:45-15:55 Q&A with Youth Ambassadors & the audience

- **Ms Darta Oseniece**, Latvia, Baltic area
- **Mr Leo Näsström**, Atlantic area

15:55-16:00 Concluding remarks

With the support of



**CPMR
CRPM**