

Seminar	Blue circular economy and innovation in the Mediterranean fisheries and aquaculture sectors - contributions from BLUEfasma project
Organizers	MedCités – CMIB
Date	4 April 2022
Venue	Hotel Catalonia Ramblas, Barcelona (carrer Pelai, 28)

1. CONTEXT

BLUEfasma integrates and implements Circular Economy (CE) principles to the key blue growth sector of fisheries/aquaculture to benefit MED island/coastal areas in a new/innovative way. The project team addresses the transnational challenge of natural resource depletion and MED CE innovation performance below the EU average in fisheries/aquaculture.

The seminar "Blue circular economy and innovation in the Mediterranean fisheries and aquaculture sectors - contributions of the BLUEfasma project" will be organised in Barcelona on 4 April 2022. The project's proposals to overcome barriers and support the blue circular economy in the Mediterranean fisheries and aquaculture sectors will be presented. The project is funded by the European Commission's INTERREG MED programme. Both MedCités and the Balearic Islands Maritime Cluster are partners in the project. BLUEfasma aims to enhance the innovation capacity of SMEs, clusters, maritime networks and Port Authorities to boost the growth of the blue circular economy in island and/or coastal areas.

During the seminar, several round tables will be organised with expert speakers who will analyse the current situation. Each of the roundtables will discuss from a sectoral and cross-sectoral fisheries/aquaculture value chain perspective.

As a result of the seminar, a report of the results will be drawn up, which will include the recommendations and ideas identified during the event. The report will be released to the different public and private stakeholders to be taken into consideration in their decisions.

The BLUEfasma project involves 9 Mediterranean countries: Greece, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Cyprus, Malta, Croatia and Montenegro. It started in November 2019 and ends in June 2022. The BLUEfasma Consortium is composed of 14 partners. The project was approved under the third call of the InterregMed 2014-2020 programme (project no. 5333).

2. OBJECTIVES

The knowledge base and work at BLUEfasma is to identify and develop best practices, tools, solutions and innovative methods related to the circular economy in the key blue growth sector of fisheries/aquaculture.

The seminar's objectives are:

- To facilitate the wide dissemination of the results of the project to date and its recommendations to all public and private stakeholders in the Mediterranean fisheries and aquaculture sector (local, regional, regional and national public administrations, the extractive sector, the recreational sector, economic and social agents, environmental NGOs, and other related entities so that they take it into consideration in their decisions.
- Reflect jointly with the sector on the proposed recommendations developed in the capitalisation phase of the project, in order to optimise the approach and fully define their scope so that they can then be submitted to the European Commission.

Structure

Main issues:

- Sustainable blue economy strategy
- Aquaculture and Fisheries
- Innovative methods in the circular economy
- White Paper
- Examples of good practices developed

Four plenary sessions with round table discussions, which will address the issues identified above in a cross-cutting manner:

- Fishing
- Recreational fishing
- Processing and Marketing
- Maritime spatial planning and maritime strategies and impacts on fisheries and aquaculture

Each round table will have a coordinator and several speakers who will make an initial presentation, using a sheet that will include the main key elements. Based on this information, the participants will discuss the main themes of each round table (in response to questions from the coordinator) and will address proposals for promoting the circular economy in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

Languages: English, French, Spanish and Catalan. Simultaneous translation service will be available.

In-person and virtual modality

Event conduction and moderation: Ms. Mercedes Tarrazon

Coordination of the round tables: representatives of the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; the Directorate General for Maritime Policy and Sustainable Fisheries of the Government of Catalonia; the Directorate General for Fisheries and the Marine Environment of the Government of the Balearic Islands; and Barcelona City Council.

3. PARTICIPANTS

Participation, as speakers and participants, of:

- Representatives of the Government of Catalonia
- Representatives of the Government of the Balearic Islands
- Representatives of European, Spanish and Autonomous Community public administrations.
- Representatives of entities and organisations linked to the different sectors of the blue economy (fishing, aquaculture, recreational tourism, MED diet, gastronomy, etc.).
- Representatives of companies related to the blue economy (extractive, production, processing, distribution, retail, catering, etc).
- Representatives of trade unions
- Representatives of innovation agencies

PROGRAMME 4 April 2022

9:00 - 9:30h Registration and accreditation

Opening Ceremony 9:30h – 10:15h

- Ms. Ada Colau, Mayoress of Barcelona*
- Ms. Alicia Villauriz, Secretary-General for Fishing, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food*
- Mr. Giampaolo Bonfiglio, President, Mediterranean Advisory Council*
- Mr. Antoni Cañete, President, Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises of Catalonia PIMEC PIMEC*
- Ms. Teresa Jordà, Minister for Climate Action, Food and Rural Agenda, Government of Catalonia*

BLUEfasma project: presentation and main milestones 10:15h – 11:15h

- **Coordinator:** Mr. Josep Canals, Secretary-General, MedCités
- BLUEfasma Platform, Mr. Thanasis Koukounaris, Senior Project Manager, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Patras
- BLUEfasma White Paper, Ms. Elisa Serra, Research Fellow, Fondazione International Marine Centre
- BLUEfasma Policy Recommendations, Ms. Carolina Pérez, Project Officer, MedCités

Coffee Break 11:15h - 11:45h

Round table 1 11:45h - 12:30h Fishing

- **The BLUEfasma project provides key messages to local, regional and national policy makers and SMEs/clusters/networks operating in these sectors. Towards a sustainable blue circular economy in the EU fisheries sector.**
 - **Coordinator:** Mr. Juan Ignacio Gandarias, Director General for Fisheries Management and Aquaculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food*
 - **Panellists***

Scope: This session aims to provide ideas and foster a debate on the prospects for the blue economy in the future and in line with the policy objectives set out in the field of fisheries. It will consider the intersection of the marine environment, the circular economy, policy and technology, along with the investment opportunities available, to discuss how the blue economy can provide space for new efforts and opportunities.

Round table 2 12:30h – 13:15h Recreational fishing

- **Sustainable recreational fishing and governance**
 - **Coordinator:** Representative of the Directorate-General for Maritime Policy and Sustainable Fisheries, Government of Catalonia*
 - **Panellists***

Scope: This plenary session will aim to provide fresh ideas and encourage a debate on the prospects of the blue economy. Harmonisation and shared spaces, sustainable facilities and services.

Buffet Lunch 13:15h - 14:15h

Round table 3 14:15h – 15:00h Processing and Marketing

- **Strategies and Processes. Efficient processing and marketing: improving attitudes towards circular fisheries and aquaculture.**
 - **Coordinator:** Mr. Juan Mercant, Directorate General for Fisheries and Marine Environment, Government of the Balearic Islands
 - **Panellists***

Scope: This plenary session will aim to provide fresh ideas and encourage a debate on the prospects for efficient communication and awareness-raising strategies, enhancing the technological aspect.

Develop reliable and efficient economic tools. Analyse the necessary paradigm shifts, innovations, investments and knowledge that can deliver a maritime space that does not spoil the environment and fosters growth and prosperity. A sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean will create tangible opportunities for new jobs and businesses, while it can also offer solutions for the circularity of the economy and the restoration of biodiversity

Round table 4 15:00h – 15:45h Maritime Spatial Planning and Maritime Strategies and Impacts on Fisheries and Aquaculture

- **How to promote sustainable aquaculture. From farm to table.**
 - **Coordinator:** Mr. Jaume Collboni, First Deputy Mayor, Barcelona City Council*
 - **Panellists***

Scope: This plenary session will aim to provide fresh ideas, fostering a debate on the prospects of the blue circular economy and the promotion of sustainable aquaculture taking into consideration the whole value chain.

Key messages from the seminar and compilation of contributions 15:45h – 16:15h

Summary of the recommendations and conclusions of the round tables. Compilation of the contributions of the participants and institutions attending.

- Ms. Mercedes Tarrazon

Closure of the seminar 16:15h – 17:00h

- Ms. Iolanda Piedra, President, Maritime Cluster of the Balearic Islands
- Mr. Jordi Mora, President, Small and Medium-sized Business Confederation of the Balearic Islands*
- Ms. Charlina Vitcheva, Director-General, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission*
- Ms. Maria Asunción Jacoba Pia de la Conquilla García-Mauriño, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Government of the Balearic Islands*

* To be confirmed