

#EMD2023

EMD 

EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY

Brest

24-25 May 2023

EU4Algae Roadshow

Spotlight on innovative EU algae projects



An underwater photograph showing a dense field of green and brown seaweed. The water is clear and blue. The text 'EU4Algae' is overlaid in white on the seaweed.

EU4Algae

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A collaborative European stakeholders' forum

The ultimate objective of the #EU4Algae is to accelerate the scale up of a regenerative, resilient, fair and climate friendly algae industry in Europe.

About EU4Algae

EU4Algae Forum is the **platform**

gathering **algae interested parties**, from all relevant public and private organizations,

to jointly implement the EU Algae Initiative,

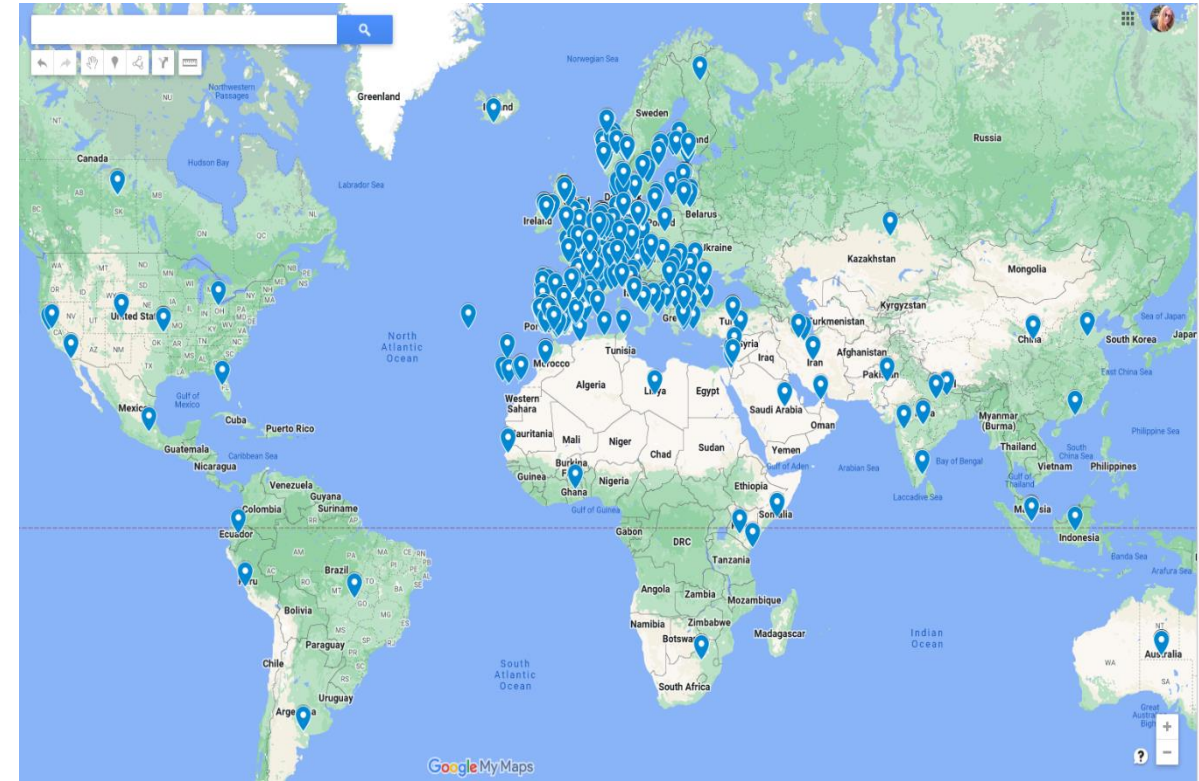
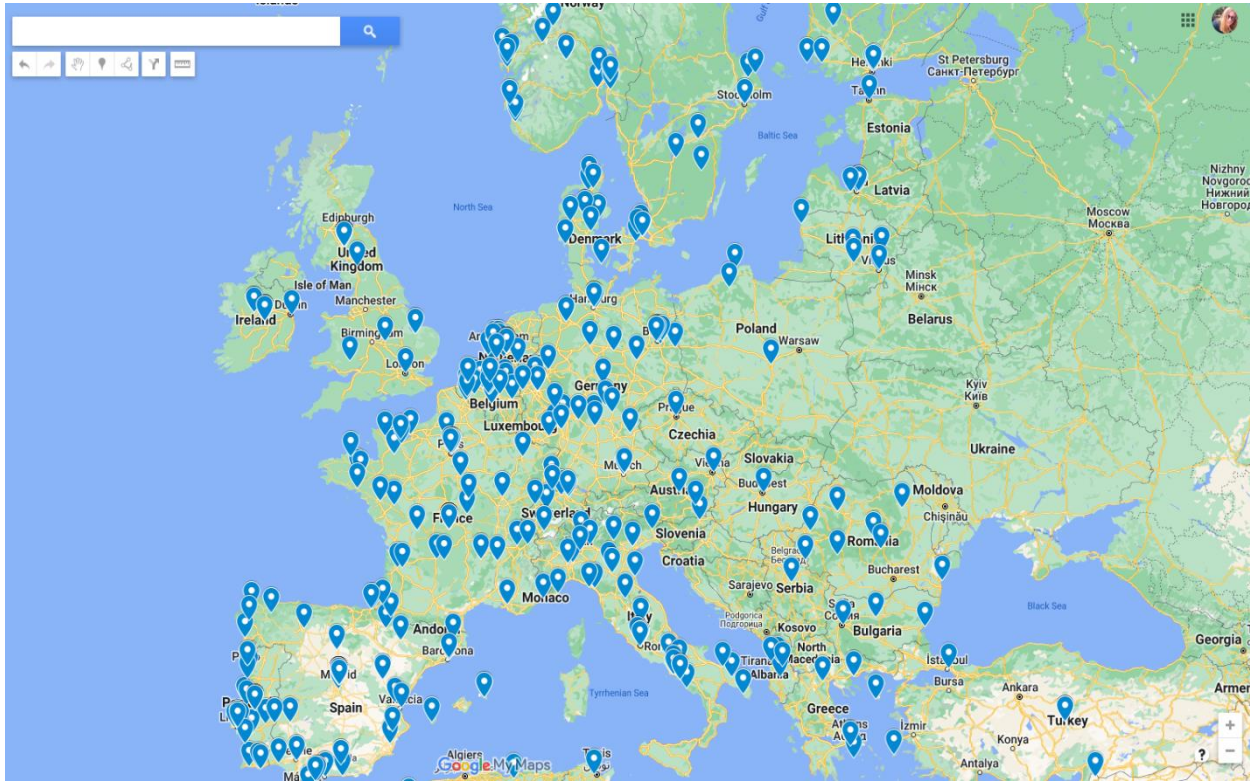
while offering a **forum to openly speak and discuss** market driven breakthroughs for the sector.

The ultimate objective is to accelerate the scale up of a regenerative, resilient, fair and climate friendly algae industry in Europe.

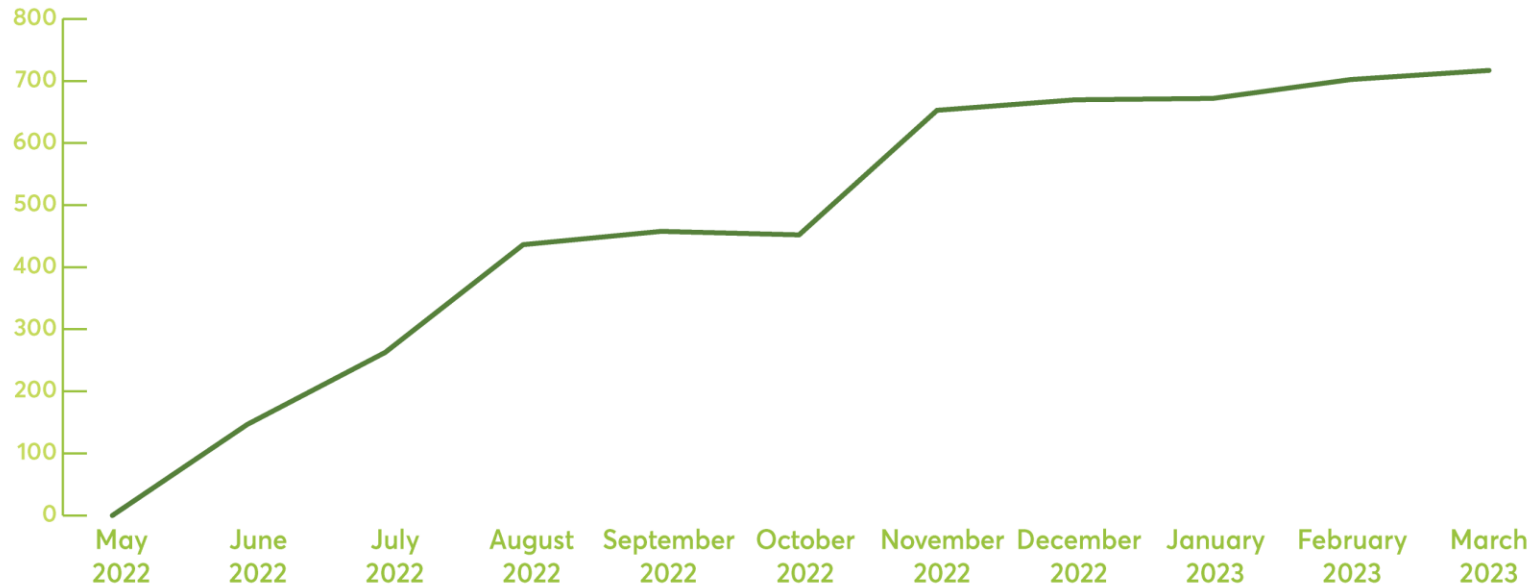


EU4Algae registered members

+700 members registered and participating in WGs discussions



Evolution of new registered members



Note: 104 members were directly added to the community without registering

Sectors



Countries

Europe:

1. Spain
2. Germany and France
3. Italy
4. UK
5. Netherlands
6. Portugal
7. Belgium
8. Denmark and Norway

Outside Europe:

1. Turkey
2. US

EU4Algae online Forum

The screenshot shows the homepage of the EU4Algae online forum. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the European Commission logo and the text "MARITIME FORUM". Below this, a breadcrumb trail reads "European Commission > Maritime Forum > Blue economy > Blue Bioeconomy > EU4Algae". The main navigation menu includes "Themes", "Communities", "Search", "F.A.Q", and "EU Login".

The main content area features a large banner with the text "EU4Algae" over a background image of seaweed. Below the banner, there are six categories represented by icons and text:

- Macroalgae Production
- Microalgae production
- Algae for Food
- Algae for Feed
- Ecosystem Services & Bioremediation
- Materials, Chemicals, Bioactives & Algae Biorefining
- Youth & Entrepreneurship

On the right side, there is a "Contact us" form with fields for "Your full name", "Your email address", and "Your message", followed by a "Submit" button. Below the contact form is an "Upcoming events" section with three items:

- Running challenge for schools: "Be a scientist!..." (0 sec hence)
- Join the European Atlas of the Seas at CommoCEAN 2022 (1 day 14 hours hence)
- EU4Algae in Rome, 12 December (1 week 6 days hence)
- Workshop on Algae and Blue

At the bottom, there is an "About EU4Algae" section with a partial description: "The platform is a unique space for collaboration among European".

[| Maritime Forum \(europa.eu\)](https://maritimeforum.europa.eu)

The screenshot shows a pre-registration form for the EU4Algae (European Stakeholder Platform). The form is titled "EU4Algae (European Stakeholder Platform)" and "Pre-registration Form". Below the title, it states: "Your data will be processed and stored following the GDPR Regulation (EU) 2016/679.".

The form includes a "Submit" button and two required fields:

1. Name *
2. Surname *

Each field has a text input box with the placeholder "Enter your answer".

Get to know the seven EU4Algae Working Groups



EU4Algae Working Groups

Current Working Groups are:

- Working Group 1. **Macroalgae Production** (Facilitator: Systemiq)
- Working Group 2. **Microalgae Production** (Facilitator: EABA)
- Working Group 3. **Algae for Food** (Facilitator: EABA)
- Working Group 4. **Algae for Feed** (Facilitator: s.Pro)
- Working Group 5. **Ecosystem Services / Bioremediation** (Facilitator: s.Pro)
- Working Group 6. **Materials/Chemicals/Bioactives and Algae Biorefining** (Facilitator: EABA)
- Working Group 7. **Youth and Entrepreneurship** (Facilitator: s.Pro)

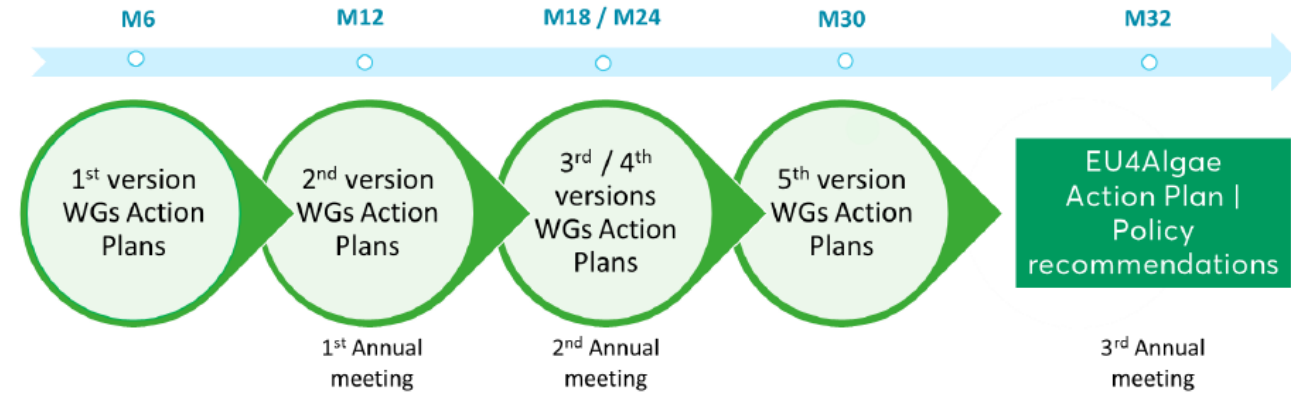


Figure 12: EU4Algae Working Groups workflow and outcomes

EU4Algae event in Rome on 12 December

Working groups – Action Plans' structure

European algae stakeholders' forum (EU4Algae) and bringing more algae species to the EU market
01.7: 1st version of WGs action plans

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EU4ALGAE WORKING GROUPS ACTION PLAN – 1st VERSION

Working Group 1. Macroalgae Production

WG Name	Macroalgae Production	WG Number	1
Facilitator	Adrien VINCENT	Organisation	SYSTEMIQ

Identified Constraints, Obstacles, and Issues

A robust demand for high-quality, traceable, sustainably grown seaweed is expected to increase significantly in the coming years. However, if this demand is met through imports, Europe will miss out on many of the benefits associated with seaweed farming (e.g. innovation, ecosystem services, coastal jobs). Satisfying this growing demand translates into the need to produce millions of tonnes of fresh seaweed each year, which is far above current production levels. While Europe can build on expertise and know-how from decades of science, wild harvesting and processing activities, production growth of this magnitude will depend on cost-efficient farming scaleup, which must meet sustainability criteria.

Today, cultivated European seaweed is insufficient in volume, too expensive and produced by a fragmented supply chain. So far only a few companies have managed to secure a license for large-scale operations and leverage sufficient funding to expand. Besides, high quality, traceability and local sourcing are value-adds that can justify a price premium for European seaweed versus imported Asian products. However, European seaweed will not be viewed as an economically viable source of large-scale future supply if the price structure does not change – the current price premium often makes it ten times as costly as imports. To enable this change and help propel European producers up the ladder of preferred sources of supply, production costs in Europe have to be cut drastically. Economies of scale will naturally occur as farms grow bigger in size and assets like boats or seeding and harvesting machinery can be amortised.

General Objective
Support the sustainable and cost-efficient scale-up of European seaweed cultivation

Specific Objectives

- Create useful centrally accessible knowledge and facilitate knowledge and experience sharing between seaweed farmers
- Create a bridge between the seaweed farmers community and other stakeholders groups (e.g., policy makers, journalists, investors, etc.)
- Inspire new entrants to launch and develop a seaweed farm in Europe

Working Groups Actions

A.1. Upgrade and maintain up to date the Licensing Toolkit developed by Seaweed for Europe
A.2. Organise knowledge and experience sharing sessions with farmers from other continents
A.3. Organise webinars presenting latest scientific developments and new technical solutions for seaweed cultivation
A.4. Facilitate organisation of on-site trips for journalists and policy-makers/ politicians to visit farms and meet seaweed farmers
A.5. Explore potential to create a public seed bank at European level
A.6. List and profile success stories of seaweed farmers
A.7. Identify potential sources of financing for seaweed farmers (types of capital + potential partners)
A.8. Host 5x WG meetings (online or in-person) with rotational chair / host

Outcomes

O1. Online licensing toolkit available on EU4Algae online forum, enriched with country profiles and maintained up to date
O2. 3 sessions organised (1 per year) with farmers from e.g., Asia, North America, Africa
O3. 3 webinars organised (1 per year) presenting latest scientific developments and new technical solutions for seaweed cultivation
O4. 3 on site farm visits for journalists and policy-makers/ politicians (1 per year) co-organised with local partners in e.g., France, Netherlands, Portugal
O5. Scoping document for the set up of a public seed bank at European level
O6. Fact sheets/ profiles of European seaweed farmers success stories
O7. Mapping of potential sources of financing for seaweed farmers (types of capital + potential partners)
O8. 5x WG meetings (online or in-person) with rotational chair / host

Next Steps

S1: Contact WG participants with summary (meeting agenda, action plan, tasks forum pre-registration, Doodle for 1st WG7 meeting Q3/4 2022)
S2: Identify WG chair for the next 6 months
S3: Scope activities, expectations from WG participants and timeline for the outcomes

- Constraints and challenges
- Objectives
- Actions
- Outcomes
- Next steps

"EU4Algae already played an important role during the preparation of the EU Algae Initiative, and I am very thankful for that!

Moreover, I trust that EU4Algae will play an active role in making the EU Algae Initiative a success story. Such a collaboration is crucial as ultimate goal of the initiative is to support algae sector that at the end of the day will create the added market value.

So, the Commission will continue to work hand in hand with the EU4Algae and other relevant stakeholders to let the EU Algae sector to thrive."

Delilah AL KHUDHAIRY
Director of MARE Directorate A: Maritime Policy and Blue Economy
EU4Algae meeting 12 December 2022

Thank you!

An underwater photograph showing a dense field of green and brown seaweed. Several small fish are visible swimming in the blue water. The text 'EU4Algae' is overlaid in large white letters.

EU4Algae