



EUROPEAN CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)

CINEA.D - Natural resources, climate, sustainable blue economy and clean energy  
D.3 - Sustainable Blue Economy

## **Synergies and Clustering between Maritime Projects (EASME/EMFF/2020/3.1.12) – SI2.850620**

### **Workshop Report:**

***“EMFF Integration, Scaling Up and Cooperation with other EU Funding Instruments Workshop”***



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**Credits:** Lead Contractor: [Cogea](#). Report written by lead workshop organiser and consortia member [ERINN Innovation](#).

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# 1. Executive Summary

CINEA, the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency is implementing an initiative titled **“Synergies and clustering between maritime projects”** with the aim to provide a platform for exchange of information, best practices and synergies between EMFF funded projects as well as with other funding programmes in support of the Integrated Maritime Policy’s goals. Running from June 2021 for two years and supported via a consortium of consultants through a tender contract, a key component of the initiative is to run a series of workshops to facilitate and foster networking, cooperation, sharing of experiences and to maximise the impact of relevant thematic clusters of EMFF funded projects.

The first workshop, titled **“EMFF Integration, Scaling Up and Cooperation with other EU Funding Instruments Workshop”** took place on Monday, 28 February 2022 (9:00-13:00 CET). The objective of the workshop was to contextualise the landscape in which EMFF projects are operating and to explore opportunities for future EMFF projects under the workshop headings; Integration, Scaling up and Cooperation.

A total of 74 attendees participated in the workshop, representing European Commission funding mechanisms as well as beneficiaries from both EMFF projects and projects from other funding mechanisms. A mixed methodological approach was used to drive engagement and participation in the virtual setting.

Over 4 hours the three sessions helped to;

- a) **Contextualise** the landscape in which EMFF projects operate,
- b) **Explore** what the terms “Integration, Scaling Up and Cooperation” means to different actors, e.g. funders vs project beneficiaries,
- c) **Identify** key characteristics of some best practice case studies, in particular highlighting how knowledge has moved down impact pathways via the use of different funding mechanisms and how scale-up and cooperation can be achieved,
- d) **Generate Ideas** on actions that can support integration and cooperation at both funding programme and project level.

It is hoped that the outputs generated during this workshop will provide both the contracting authority and participants alike, with valuable insights on how the EMFF and other funding programmes can forge synergies and complementarities, to ensure that all programmes are aligned and working together to add value to European funding in the maritime sector and beyond. For the Integration, Scaling Up and Cooperation initiative led by CINEA, it will help inform the design of future workshops in the series over the coming 18 months.

## 2. Introduction

The first in a series of workshops being developed under the “Synergies and Clustering between Maritime Projects” initiative took place on Monday 28 February 2022. Titled “EMFF Integration, Scaling Up and Cooperation with other EU Funding Instruments Workshop” this workshop discussed specific questions on integration, scaling up and cooperation with other EU funding instruments. The workshop focused on a system level and explored with participants the current R&I policy drivers, the funding mechanisms available and both existing and planned efforts to support coordination going forward.

A comprehensive agenda included an overview of the EMFF project cohort, presentations on current policy drivers for R&I in the maritime sector, an analysis of the EMFF funding landscape, and a series of case study presentations on best practice from both EMFF, CEF and Horizon 2020 projects. The workshop was supported by interactive sessions to allow participants to share their own experiences. Using a co-creation and participatory approach the aim was to achieve a common understanding as well as gain insights and knowledge.

## 3. Workshop Objective

The objective of the workshop was to utilise a co-creation and participatory approach to achieve a common understanding as well as gain insights and knowledge on the following elements:

- **Clarity:** Understanding of the policy and funding landscape going forward and where there is high potential for integration and cooperation.
- **Purpose:** Clarity and consensus on the benefits of integration and cooperation at different scales.
- **Vision:** Reflection on how to enable scale up of needed solutions to achieve ambitious policy targets.
- **Barriers:** Identification of potential barriers and ideas to overcome.
- **Funding:** Insights into how to optimise the use of public funds and leverage other funding sources.
- **Best Practice:** Identification of effective methods and tools to support integration, scale-up and cooperation.

## 4. Target Participants

The following cohorts were identified as target participant for the events:

- Coherence Panel covering EC funding mechanisms
- Case Study examples of Projects/Beneficiaries that have secured complimentary funding across funding programmes to move knowledge/product down an impact pathway
- Representatives from Other Funding Programmes/Initiatives/Projects who can share experiences of complimentary funding across funding programmes to move knowledge/product down an impact pathway

The workshop was attended by 74 participants. Attendance consisted of members of the coherence panel, representatives from other EU funding programmes, and beneficiaries from both EMFF funded projects and other funding mechanisms.

Breakdown:

<b>Total Registered: 74</b>
Coherence Panel Members: 25
Speakers: 4
Project Beneficiaries: 24
Other: 21

## 5. Workshop Methodology

The four-hour workshop took place online via Zoom. Participation was free and open to all relevant stakeholders. The event was advertised via multiple channels.

In order to engage all participants and encourage participation, the methodology included a mix of presentations, case studies, plenary and roundtable discussions and breakout sessions.

The workshop began with a presentation of the EMFF programme objectives and projects overview, this was provided to set the scene, and to inform a discussion on where the EMFF sits in the wider picture of the EU funding landscape. The opening presentations were followed by presentations on current policy drivers for R&I in the maritime sector and an analysis of the EMFF funding landscape. A series of case studies showcased projects that have managed to successfully utilise different funding streams (including EMFF) to move their ideas/products/services down impact pathways towards application were presented and followed up with plenary discussions. Breakout rooms were used to further develop discussion and capture participants feedback on opportunities for collaboration and scaling. The workshop concluded with a round table discussion with project coordinators from a selection of Horizon 2020 Coordination & Support Actions (CSAs) which further explored opportunities for cooperation. Again, following the case studies, time was allocated to allow members of the coherence panel share their reflections on what was presented.

For the breakout components of the workshop, participants were divided into six breakout rooms within Zoom, which were moderated by representatives from the contractors ERINN Innovation and Cogea. The Google platform 'Jamboard' was used to capture participant feedback.

To ensure an efficient meeting, especially in a virtual setting, some preparatory work was conducted by ERINN to prompt discussion and ensure a productive meeting focused on co-creation as opposed to just one directional information sharing. The preparatory work utilised artificial intelligence to analyse the call texts of about 90 EMFF projects to map key characteristics and complementarities and demonstrate the shift in priorities of EMFF funded projects during this period. The visual products of the work became the starting point for discussions on integration between funding programmes.

ERINN were the key points of contact for all speakers throughout the workshop planning stage, collating all presentations, and providing briefing documents and technical support in the run up to and during the workshop. The workshop was moderated by David Murphy (ERINN Innovation). Facilitation for breakout sessions was provided by ERINN Innovation and Cogea. ERINN staff also provided technical support during the workshop.

The agenda for this workshop can be found in [\*\*Annex 1 – Event Agenda\*\*](#).

## 6. Workshop Execution

The workshop took place as scheduled on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> February from 9:00-13:00 CET.

A short narration of the presentations, case studies are provided below. A recording of the whole workshop and copies of each presentation is available on the [Maritime Forum](#).

As time was limited during the Case Study Presentations and Roundtable discussion, a short summary of each project represented was provided to participants in advance in the annex to the agenda.

Participants were asked to familiarise themselves with the projects in advance of the session ([See Annex 2 for Session B summaries](#)) ([See Annex 3 for Session C summaries](#)).

Session A: Setting the Scene	
Title	Name and Affiliation of speaker
<a href="#">Introduction to Initiative &amp; Purpose of workshop</a>	Charlotte Jagot, CINEA
Overview of EMFF project cohort	Charlotte Jagot, CINEA
<p><b>Summary:</b>            Ms Charlotte Jagot introduced the initiative and purpose of the workshop, the ambition to try and support integration, scaling up and cooperation between EU funding instruments in support of key policies. This initiative is an attempt to help facilitate such ambitions in a systematic way. The objectives of the workshop were to trigger discussions on coherence/added value/positioning of EMFF within the EU funding landscape. Exchange views on what “integration, scaling up and cooperation” between EU funding instruments means and explore how to improve synergies.</p> <p>A comprehensive overview was then provided of the centrally funded EMFF projects between 2015-20; 96 projects were funded, 346 organisations participated from 35 different countries. The total budget of the cohort was €126m of which the EMFF contribution was €90m. Focus areas of the projects included blue careers, blue economy, sustainable tourism, ocean health and monitoring, blue labs, and regional cooperation.</p>	

Session B: System Level - Exploration of “Integration, Scale up and Cooperation”	
<p><i>Using a combination of presentations, case studies, plenary discussion and breakout rooms, this session aimed to set the scene on current policy drivers for R&amp;I in the marine/maritime sectors and the funding landscape, in addition to exploring opportunities for integration, scale up and cooperation across the funding system. Following the case studies, time was allocated to allow members of the coherence panel to share their reflections.</i></p>	
Title	Name and Affiliation of speaker
<a href="#">Sustainable Blue Economy</a>	Andreea Strachinescu, DG MARE
<a href="#">Horizon Europe &amp; Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters</a>	Elisabetta Balzi, DG RTD
<p><b>Summary:</b>  <b>Ms. Andreea Strachinescu</b> opened by setting the scene on blue economy policy, introducing a communication that was issued by DG MARE in May 2021. The communication outlines five key points under which actions are needed to support the development of a sustainable blue economy: Ocean</p>	

Knowledge, Research and Innovation, Blue Skills, Investment and Maritime Security. Ms. Strachinescu outlined how actions under the sustainable blue economy would support the Green Deal, with overlapping objectives including: zero pollution, circular economy, farm to fork, reducing emissions and climate adaptation.

**Ms. Elisabetta Balzi** introduced the EU Mission – Restore our Ocean & Waters by 2030. She emphasised that European Missions are broad mobilisation initiatives to face the greatest challenges of our time. Whilst rooted in the Horizon Europe programme, Missions go beyond the existing instruments, cutting across policies, programmes and levels of governance. She presented the system approach including objectives and targets, provided an overview of the structure including lighthouses and sea basin approaches and the planned timelines for implementation. The presentation concluded with some examples of existing synergies between EMFF and Horizon initiatives and the need for synergies to continue across programmes in support of the Mission.

<b>Case Study on “Scale Up”</b>	<a href="#">Eva Pérez García, Green Port C</a>
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<b>Case Study on “Scale Up”</b>	<a href="#">Madelin Ojakovoh, MEHRLIN</a>
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**Summary:**  
Two projects (Green Port C and MEHRLIN) were invited to share their experiences of going from generating new knowledge in projects via the H2020 programme to scaling up solutions at scale via the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). Experiences and learnings were shared as well as key considerations for how projects can help ensure they have a legacy post project funding. The presentations were intended to serve as inspiration for the participants and future initiatives.

<b><a href="#">Funding Landscape Analysis</a></b>	<b>David Murphy, ERINN Innovation</b>
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**Summary:**  
In order to help frame the breakout discussions, Mr. Murphy presented a high level overview of the EU funding landscape. He highlighted key global commitments (e.g. Sustainable Development Goals, UN Decade of Ocean Science, Climate agreements) and linked them to key EC policies (Green Deal, Missions, Blue Economy). He then linked the policy to the funding landscape, over 2 Trillion in the 2021-27 MFF programme. He highlighted key aspects of the funding programme for the “blue” sectors including Horizon Europe and emphasised the efforts by the EC to enhance synergies across programmes. Finally he contextualised the “impact” ambitions and the concept of “impact pathways” which will require cooperation across projects and stakeholders if the EC is to realise their ambition of generating and scaling up solutions to help address key challenges in Europe and the world.

### **Session C: Knowledge/Beneficiary Level Exploration – Case Studies**

*Session C aimed to explore how it is possible to enable high potential knowledge to be developed and brought to market by accessing different funding sources for different stages of the innovation cycle. Case studies were presented by beneficiaries who have managed to do this effectively, sharing not just their positive experiences but also challenges along their journey to help identify best practices.*

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name and Affiliation of speaker</b>
<b>EMFF Case Study Presentation</b>	<a href="#">Fantina Madricardo, MarGNet</a>
<b>EMFF Case Study Presentation</b>	<a href="#">Silvia Bianchelli, AFRIMED</a>
<b>EMFF Case Study Presentation</b>	<a href="#">Christina Aleixendri, Greening the Blue</a>
<b>EMFF Case Study Presentation</b>	<a href="#">Chiara Petrioli, Archeosub</a>

**Summary:**  
The objective of this session was to provide a series of case studies on projects who successfully scaled the results from EMFF funded projects to secure funding through other funding mechanisms.

**Ms. Fantina Madricardo** shared her experiences coordinating the **MarGNet** project and how the consortium scaled the results of this small project and secured funding under the Horizon 2020 programme.

**Ms. Christina Aleixendri** delivered a presentation on how the **EMFF Greening the Blue** scaled their results and secured further EU funding for the **Bound4Blue project**, exploring the drivers and barriers to this upscaling under the EIC accelerator and LIFE programmes.

**Ms. Chiara Petrioli** from the EMFF **Archeosub project** outlined how the team behind this project developed the knowledge under a previous FP7 project before securing EMFF funding to continue their research. Following advice from EEN and coaching from Blue Invest they were able to secure a first round of investment that will allow them to significantly scale their results over the next few years.

**Ms. Silvia Bianchelli** from **AFRIMED** described how the scaled results from the **H2020 Mercedes project** to secure funding for AFRIMED.

### Session C: Knowledge/Beneficiary Level Exploration – Round Table

*Session C also included a roundtable discussion which invited the following Horizon 2020 'Communication Support Action' projects to share their experience and insights with participants of the workshop).*

Title of CSA	Representative
<b>COLUMBUS</b>	<b>Rosa Fernández, CETMAR</b>
<b>AANCHOR</b>	<b>Sofia Soares Cordeiro, FCT</b>

**Ms. Cordeiro** provided rich insights from her experiences as coordinator of the AANCHOR H2020 CSA project ([All AtlaNtic Cooperation for Ocean Research and innovation](#)). She highlighted the benefit of clustering and connecting projects and sharing best practices stimulated by the EC in the case of the Atlantic research cooperation. She emphasised the need for flexibility in programmes to be able to adjust during implementation. A key component to achieve legacy is ensuring that activities are not only co-designed but also co-implemented with external stakeholders. One successful example of in AANCHOR was the use of seed funding to help identify and bring together existing initiatives through pilot actions supported by the project and including partners and external stakeholders. She promoted the idea of one-stop shops either at a thematic or sea basin level where you can host the relevant knowledge/resources/data to achieve the policy targets. Such portals can help ensure a legacy post project and knowledge flows efficiently. She concluded by emphasising the need to ensure the community effectively communicates with citizens to address the emotional gap not just at the project level but also at a broader strategic level. AANCHOR has moved away from a “project website” to a portal ([all Atlantic ocean research alliance](#)) covering the whole initiative and they have adopted the alliance branding.

**Ms. Fernández**, a WP leader in the [COLUMBUS](#) H2020 CSA project (Monitoring, Managing and Transferring Marine and Maritime Knowledge for Sustainable Blue Growth) built upon the inputs. She highlighted the usefulness of coordination and support action (CSA) projects such as COLUMBUS in helping support project legacy. She explained a little about the systematic process the COLUMBUS adopted for knowledge management and transfer. In particular she highlighted the importance of analysing projects, their objectives, their key outputs and potential applications. Such analysis is healthy both during and post project. Recognising that it is not always possible to predict all outputs, it is healthy to use an open approach and broad perspective to the analysis in order to identify all relevant outputs and potential applications and end-users. Recognising that projects are busy implementing their work plan, support for linkages/synergies/clustering is appreciated and valuable, and CSAs are a good vehicle to support such work in a cross-cutting manner.



During plenary discussions, input was sought from all participants, with coherence panel members in particular being invited to share their insights at key points throughout the workshop.

For the breakout session organised as part of Session B, breakout room facilitators posed the following prompt questions to the participants:

- ***What integration and cooperation is needed across funding programmes to achieve the policy targets (Sustainable Blue Economy, Missions, Green Deal)?***
- ***What are the challenges in the current funding system? How could they be overcome?***

Following the Session B breakout session, participants returned to the main Zoom meeting room, where facilitators provided a summary of the breakout discussions to the group – this summary can be found in the next section. The raw feedback collected from participants using the Google Jamboard can be found in **Breakout Room Output**.

During Session C, participants were actively engaged in plenary discussion, so a decision was made ‘in-flight’ to remain in the main room, so that comments were heard by all, rather than returning to the planned breakout rooms.

The workshop concluded on schedule closed out by Charlotte Jagot, CINEA.

## 7. Workshop Outputs

This section summarises the key points captured during plenary and breakout sessions during the event.

### 7.1: Key Points Captured From Session B Plenary Discussion\*

*\*Note these key points have been synthesised based on plenary discussions, see video for original interactions.*

- Securing initial funding can be a steppingstone or gateway to other sources of funding be it regional, national or European. Each new source of funding will allow you to further develop and scale your results, giving you access to larger funding opportunities further down the chain.
- Securing funding in this stepped way and gradually scaling the results through larger grants is useful. Smaller projects are easier to manage and it can help partners get an understanding of where problems exist earlier. It also provides time to understand the next steps for your work, where you should scale to geographically or what technical expertise or networks you require from partners as your project grows.
- It can take multiple attempts to secure a particular source of funding. It is important to ensure the results/technology are at the right maturity level for the type of grant you are trying to secure.
- There are considerable opportunity costs involved in each funding bid in terms of time and resources invested in the application, being aware the different funding options available can help you secure funding as one programme may be more accessible depending on factors like the scope/topic of your project or competition rates associated with a particular call e.g., EIC funds projects from multiple sectors whereas EMFF funding only funds blue projects which can reduce the competition for funding.

## 7.2: Summary Of Feedback From Session B Breakout Room\*\*

\*\*Note that this summary feedback has been synthesised based on raw results from 6 breakout groups (See [Annex 4](#)).

### **Prompt Question 1: What integration and cooperation is needed across funding programmes to achieve the policy targets**

- Simplifying and streamlining the funding landscape would reduce the burden on beneficiaries in terms of being aware of all funding opportunities, having simpler rules to follow and a better chance of pulling down funding for research of relevance to policy.
- The funding system funds individual projects but to achieve ambition impacts, there needs to be clustering and coordination of groups of projects across different funding programmes in response to specific policy drivers that covers the full value chain, from implementation of the projects through to scale up.
- The funding programme administrators have the best overview of projects, they should be identifying opportunities for collaboration and scale up. Networking opportunities for similar projects across programmes need to be created. Topic oriented, inter-programme conferences would help to create cross programme platforms.
- There is a general need for synergies tools, for projects while they are active as once they finish, synergies are difficult to establish.
- Need to have a strong involvement from local stakeholders/end-users - legislation or permits to adopt a technology could be a barrier to impact that requires support from other actors at different scales.
- Clear KPIs connected to policy targets, connections/introductions to policy makers would be useful.
- Channel barriers through Assistance Mechanisms (they may link to national legislators to reach them) E.g., EEN (Enterprise Europe Network) has scale-up advisors. Projects can join network at any time. Can help find business partners. Can help create synergies. Companies can continue receiving help in their "climbing journey" - advisory achievement (e.g. to overcome legal barriers).

### **Prompt Question 2: What are the challenges in the current funding system? How can they be overcome?**

- There is a general lack of understanding on all the funding instruments available and how connections between them can help projects to grow. It can be challenging for projects to select a funding instrument to apply to next, especially for inexperienced applicants.
- Challenges in scaling up between different levels of funding (regional, national, EU). It can take a very long time to get the first grant accepted, because early-stage companies don't have a track record.
- It can be very difficult for a start up to get financial backing to guarantee the pre financing grant. It can kill participation.
- There is a lack of flexibility around funding rules in some agencies. Tackling complexity of the funding programmes rules, reporting, requirements. Streamlining rules and systems across programmes where possible would make programmes accessible to wider range of stakeholders.
- Better integration among EU and National funding programmes would be beneficial (reduces risk of double funding, different funding rates).
- Real coordination among activities from different projects is not sufficiently monitored/guided (e.g. policy input provided) throughout the lifetime of the funded projects.
- Time delays between funding. There is a drop off when one source ends, beneficiaries may not have access to further funding straight away, research is lost and becomes outdated.

- Information about funding for blue economy is spread across many programmes and sub programmes. Accessing the information is not easy.

### **7.3: Key Points Captured From Session C Plenary Discussion\*\*\***

\*\*\*It was decided to not use breakout rooms for prompt questions 3 & 4. Instead there was a moderated discussion in plenary, key points have been assimilated below.

#### ***Prompt Question 3: How do we ensure valuable knowledge/results from completed projects are further developed in follow-on projects/initiatives?***

- It can be helpful to identify projects from other funding programmes working on similar topics and trying to create synergies with them.
- Consider the legacy of the project – what tools will come out of the project, what will be useful to stakeholders. Ensure project outputs are still accessible online to stakeholders/public even after project has ended.
- Networks/platforms to allow project coordinators to connect and share knowledge can be beneficial for identifying opportunities for scale-up e.g., in Italy there is a network for innovative SMEs, this allows them to share/ask questions.
- Often connections to other projects stem from personal networks, can networking be formalised and facilitated centrally.
- Start earlier to build inter project communication pipelines instead of afterwards trying (artificially) to link projects.

#### ***Prompt Question 4: How can we ensure knowledge/results are applied at scale to have an impact? What stakeholders need to be mobilised to support scale-up?***

- Funding programmes can have very specific criteria and are not suitable for projects depending on the current level of development/scaling. It is important that policy makers ensure that there is funding available to support projects/companies at each development stage and that there is no drop off where projects get lost.
- Having work packages dedicated to knowledge management can ensure knowledge is transferred.
- Engaging end users at start and throughout a project ensures their needs are met and that results will be taken up.

## **8. Conclusions**

The workshop brought together a mix of stakeholders including funders, project beneficiaries and other stakeholders. Over 4 hours the three sessions helped to;

- e) **Contextualise** the landscape in which EMFF projects operate,
- f) **Explore** what the terms “Integration, Scaling Up and Cooperation” means to different actors, e.g. funders vs project beneficiaries

- g) **Identify** key characteristics of some best practice case studies, in particular highlighting how knowledge has moved down impact pathways via the use of different funding mechanisms and how scale-up and cooperation can be achieved.
- h) **Ideas** on actions that can support integration and cooperation at both funding programme and project level.

A mixed methodological approach was used to drive engagement and participation in the virtual setting. It is hoped that the outputs generated during this workshop will provide both the contracting authority and participants alike, with valuable insights on how the EMFF and other funding programmes can forge synergies and complementarities, to ensure that all programmes are aligned and working together to add value to European funding in the maritime sector and beyond. For the Integration, Scaling Up and Cooperation initiative led by CINEA, it will help inform the design of future workshops in the series over the coming 18 months.

## 9. Follow Up Actions

A recording of the workshop and PDF copy of all presentations delivered on the day is available on the [Maritime Forum](#). The slides from the preparatory work conducted by ERINN have been provided to CINEA for use in future workshops.

# Annex 1 – Event Agenda

## Agenda

Chair: David Murphy, ERINN Innovation

### Session A: Setting the Scene

9:00–9:05 Introduction to Initiative & Purpose of workshop (CINEA)

9:05–9:20 Overview of EMFF project cohort (CINEA)

### Session B: System Level: Exploration of “Integration, Scale up and Cooperation”

9:20–9:40 Setting the Scene on “Policy Drivers”

*DG MARE – Sustainable Blue Economy – Andreea Strachinescu*

*DG RTD – Horizon Europe & Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters – Elisabetta Balzi*

09:40 – 10:00 Case Studies of “Scale Up”

1. GREEN C Ports ([website](#))

2. MERLHIN

- *Reflections from respective Coherence panel members who funded projects*

10:00 – 10:10 “Funding Landscape Analysis” (ERINN Innovation)

10:10 – 10:40 Breakout Rooms for smaller group discussions

#### **Prompt Questions**

- *What **integration and cooperation** is needed across funding programmes to achieve the policy targets (Sustainable Blue Economy, Missions, Green Deal)?*
- *What are the **challenges in the current funding system**? How could they be overcome?*

10:40–10:55 Coffee Break

10:55–11:15 Report Back & Discussion

### Session C: Knowledge/Beneficiary Level Exploration: Sharing Best Practices, Identification of Barriers/Challenges as well as Opportunities/Benefits (80 mins)

11:15–11:45 EMFF Case Study Presentations – Knowledge flow across funding programmes

3. MarGnet ([website](#))

4. GREENing the BLUE ([website](#))

5. ARCHEOSUB ([website](#))

6. AFRIMED ([website](#))

- *Reflections from respective Coherence panel members who funded projects*

11:45–12:05 Round Table: Reflections from Coordination and Support Actions

*AANCHOR / COLUMBUS / Others present*

12:05–12:35 Breakout

#### **Prompt Questions**

- *How do we ensure valuable knowledge/results from completed projects are further developed in follow-on projects/initiatives?*
- *How can we ensure **knowledge/results are applied at scale** to have an impact?*
- *What **stakeholders need to be mobilised** to support scale up?*

**12:35-12:50 Report Back & Discussion**

**Close Out**

**12:50-13:00 Planned next steps (CINEA/ERINN)**

**13:00 Close of Meeting.**

## Annex 2 – Session B Case Studies

### 1. Green\_C Ports (CEF)

**Start date:** April 2019

**End date:** March 2023

#### **Original Project Abstract:**

The GREEN C Ports Action will pilot the use of sensors, big data platforms, business intelligence tools and artificial intelligence modelling at the ports of Valencia, Venice, Piraeus, Wilhelmshaven and Bremerhaven, contributing this way to the future roll out of these technologies in the market.

The first phase of the project will comprise the design, acquisition, engineering adaptation and installation of the different sensor networks at the participant ports. These sensor networks will gather environmental data of different types (e.g. air quality parameters, meteorological information, noise, congestion at gates, among other), transmitting it to a Port Environmental Performance (PEP) IT platform that will be programmed to receive real time data from the sensor networks and from existing operating systems in the port (i.e. PCS, PMIS and TOS).

The second phase of the project will start once the installation of the necessary equipment to build the required environmental sensor network is completed. At this stage, partners of the GREEN C Ports project will develop methods and analytics following big data techniques and advanced modelling, which will allow predictive analyses of ports' environmental performance. By analysing the data gathered from the sensor networks together with existing information supplied by different port authorities and community systems, it will be possible to build models and advanced algorithms to predict in real time the impact of the environmental conditions over port operations (ship loading/unloading, port congestion, traffic management, etc.) and also over nearby city areas in terms of air quality, noise and other relevant parameters.

**Links to other funding programmes:** [Transforming Transport](#) (H2020), [InterIoT](#) (H2020)

**Link to project website:** <https://greencportsproject.eu/>

### 2. MERLHIN (CEF)

**Start date:** July 2016

**End date:** December 2020

#### **Original Project Abstract:**

The MEHRLIN project will deploy seven hydrogen refuelling stations serving bus fleets in cities across Europe, in the UK, the Netherlands, Italy and Germany. MEHRLIN began in July 2016 and will run until the end of 2020. The MEHRLIN project is co-funded by the European Commission's Connecting Europe Facility, and the support is managed by the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency.

The overall objective of MEHRLIN is to demonstrate a financeable demand led business model for hydrogen refuelling stations in order to further boost the deployment of hydrogen as an alternative fuel in the EU. The project involves the real-life trial of large hydrogen refuelling stations in seven different locations. By building and operating these stations, the MEHRLIN project will not only contribute to the expansion of hydrogen refuelling station infrastructure in Europe but will also provide data on the

technical and economic performance of refuelling stations under real conditions and high load and daily utilisation. Using this data, MEHRLIN will undertake an assessment of the financing case for hydrogen refuelling stations using a demand-led business model to facilitate the deployment of hydrogen as an alternative fuel in the EU. This business model will be defined through study and seminars to be carried out jointly with key finance providers.

**Links to other funding programmes:** JIVE, JIVE 2, [Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking](#), H2020, FP7



## Annex 3 – Session C Case Studies

### 3. MarGNet

**Start date:** January 2019

**End date:** December 2020

**Budget:** €611,792 (EU Contribution: €488,575 (80%))

**Original Project Abstract:**

Today marine litter (ML) is recognized as a major concern for the future of the sea. ML includes all anthropogenic material that has entered the marine environment by intentional or unintentional actions. Types of ML vary in their chemical composition and physical characteristics. Based on these characteristics and the size of the litter fragments, ML may accumulate in different abiotic and biotic matrices: sea surface, water column, shoreline, sea-floor, sea ice and biota.

Although it is often assumed that most ML is floating, covering wide areas and ending up on the shoreline, most eventually ends up on the sea-floor. Around 90% of ML found on the coastline comes from local sources. This is especially true for a semi-enclosed sea such as the Adriatic.

The ‘MarGnet’ project focuses on ML from sea-based sources on the sea-floor and generated by the fisheries and aquaculture activities. This includes not only abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gears (ALDFG), but also all the litter that is generated by fishing and sea food product management, including ropes, mooring points, degraded nets and their components. In Europe, they account up to 27% of all ML (European Commission).

The ‘MarGnet’ project proposes an holistic approach, combining actions to tackle the phenomenon of ML at all phases, from reduction and prevention, through the monitoring and quantification and the removal and recycling. Thereby, merging together the whole production chain of ML management – from scientific research to the development of new technological solutions for recycling.

Links to other funding programmes: [MAELSTROM](#) (H2020), [GHOST](#) (LIFE)

**Link to project website:** <http://www.margnet.eu/>

### 4. GREENING the BLUE

**Start date:** January 2019

**End date:** December 2021

**Budget:** €810,151

**Original Project Abstract:**

Fuel represents up to 60 % of the operational costs of maritime vessels, and this is accentuated by the introduction of mandates for new, cleaner fuels, such as marine gasoil, which can be double the price of traditional fuels like heavy fuel oil. The dramatic rise in fuel-related operational costs presents an acute need for new technologies. Alternative propulsion technologies for vessels can offer greater fuel efficiency and reduce the associated pollution from maritime transport, supporting EU goals for emission

reduction. GREENing the BLUE presents the full-scale demonstration of a patented tilting wingsail, which reduces fuel use and pollutant emissions in maritime transport through wind energy co-propulsion.

**Links to other funding programmes:** EIC, [ASPIRING WINGSAILS](#) (EMFF), [BOUND4BLUE](#)

**Link to project website:** <http://greeningtheblue.eu/>

## 5. ARCHEOSUB

**Start date:** February 2017

**End date:** January 2019

**Budget:** €496,652

### **Original Project Abstract:**

The ARCHEOSUB (Autonomous underwater Robotic and sensing systems for Cultural Heritage discovery Conservation and in situ valorization) project aims to develop products and services in support of the discovery of new Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) sites and of the surveying, conservation, protection, and valorization of new and existing ones. The project will use an in-situ underwater sensor network deployed at a site for real-time monitoring and surveillance. The network will comprise low-cost Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs) designed by the consortium to be sent to sites of interest, relying on the network nodes for accurate localization. Real time communication of multimedia data will be one of the outcomes of this project. The system will also provide localization services for divers equipped with underwater modems and tablets with information on the UCH site for a more immersive visit experience.

**Links to other funding programmes:** [SEASTAR](#) (EMFF Project), FP7, EEN, InnovFIN

**Link to project website:** <http://www.archeosub.eu/index.php/en/>

## 6. AFRIMED

**Start date:** January 2019

**End date:** January 2022

**Budget:** €1,486,683

### **Original Project Abstract:**

As the deployment of blue economy sectors across Europe accelerates, it is vital that the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems is maintained and restored in order to allow economic growth to be achieved in a sustainable manner. However, despite best efforts to conserve and sustainably manage marine ecosystems, attempts to mitigate human threats are generally proving inadequate to halt biodiversity loss and habitat degradation. Consequently, there is a need for the European Union to turn policy objectives relating to secure, safe, clean and sustainably managed oceans into actions and impacts. This is particularly true in coastal habitats, where the effects of multiple stressors are causing widespread loss of critical coastal habitats, a pattern which is projected to increase with climatic change.

Macroalgal forest ecosystems play a key role in enhancing coastal primary productivity, supporting complex food webs and are integral to the delivery of a multitude of goods and services. However, the massive losses of macroalgal forests that are occurring all over the Mediterranean basin are going

largely unnoticed and we do not have the tools or knowledge required to bring about change. AFRIMED seeks to bring about a step-change in this situation, by developing, implementing and promoting a protocol to effectively restore macroalgal forests (*Cystoseira* spp.) in the Mediterranean Sea in order to maximise the delivery of conservation, societal and economic benefits

In order to achieve this objective, we will harness the knowledge and expertise of a multidisciplinary team to develop, refine and implement novel restoration actions, and formulate guidelines that can be used to bring about measurable change in macroalgal forest health in the region. A key ambition is to deliver clear and robust methods that can support the successful upscaling of the project in larger and new regions and maximise buy-in from, and the benefits provided to, relevant stakeholders.

**Links to other funding programmes:** [MERCES](#) (H2020)

**Link to project website:** <http://afrimed-project.eu/>

## Communication Support Actions (CSAs)

### **COLUMBUS(H2020)**

**Start date:** March 2015

**End date:** February 2018

**Budget:** €3,997,488

#### **Original Project Abstract:**

We are standing at the dawn of a century that will be largely affected by how we as a society are able to manage our oceans and their resources. Marine and Maritime Research has a critical role to play in developing our understanding of the seas and advance technology so that we can develop their economic potential in a sustainable manner.

The COLUMBUS project intends to capitalise on the EC's significant research by ensuring accessibility and uptake of research Knowledge Outputs by end-users (policy, industry, science and wider society). COLUMBUS will ensure measurable value creation from research investments contributing to sustainable Blue Growth within the timeframe of the project.

Adopting proven methodologies and building on significant past work, COLUMBUS will first identify end-user needs and priorities. It will then set about identifying and collecting "Knowledge Outputs" from past and current EC projects. Rigorous analysis will take place to identify specific applications and end-users. Transfer will be achieved and measured through tailor-made knowledge transfer. All knowledge collected will be made accessible the pre-existing Marine Knowledge Gate.

To achieve the above, COLUMBUS has brought together a multi-disciplinary, multi-stakeholder team representing all aspects of the research value chain from funding agencies to end-users. Key strategic initiatives and networks further strengthen and provide a strong vehicle for project legacy. A network of 9 Competence Nodes, each with a "Knowledge Fellow" and support team across Europe will provide the necessary critical mass (470pm of effort) to ensure full thematic and spatial coverage. COLUMBUS will also carry out strategic actions to enhance the visibility and impact of research to

stakeholders and European Citizen's. Furthermore working with funding agencies and stakeholders, COLUMBUS will examine the feasibility of improved systems and processes to ensure measurable value creation from research.

Link to project website: <https://www.columbusproject.eu/>

## **AANChOR (H2020)**

**Start date:** October 2018

**End date:** September 2022

**Budget:** €4,095,892

### **Original Project Abstract:**

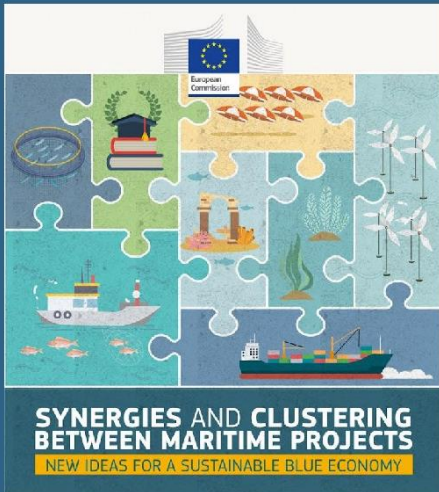
The Atlantic Ocean is an invaluable resource shared by all Atlantic nations, and beyond. It requires effective cooperation in marine research and innovation to best unlock its secrets and to manage human activities that depend on it in a sustainable way. Supporting these values, several countries have joint efforts and launched an unprecedented cooperation in marine research and innovation at the Atlantic Ocean scale through the creation of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance. The All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance is the result of science diplomacy efforts involving countries from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean (Galway Statement, May 2013 (EU-CA-EUA), Belém Statement, July 2017 (EU-BR-ZA) and bilateral Administrative Arrangements between EU-AR and EU-CV, 2018) which aims at enhancing marine research and innovation cooperation along and across the Atlantic Ocean, from the Arctic to Antarctica. The AANChOR project, aims at supporting the implementation of the Belém Statement, and therefore the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance, through the reinforcement of the international cooperation framework between EU member states, Brazil and South Africa, and desirably other countries that border the Atlantic Ocean. AANChOR has three specific objectives:

- Identifying concrete joint actions to support the implementation of the EU-Brazil-South Africa Belém Statement;
- Contributing to the implementation of the selected joint actions;
- Defining long term measures for sustainability of the cooperation framework beyond the lifetime of the CSA.

Link to project website: [https://allatlanticocean.org/aanchor\\_csa](https://allatlanticocean.org/aanchor_csa)

# Annex 4 - Breakout Room Output

Google Jamboard Screenshots:



**SYNERGIES AND CLUSTERING BETWEEN MARITIME PROJECTS**  
NEW IDEAS FOR A SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

European Commission

**Breakout Room Instructions:**

1. Find the page that corresponds to your zoom breakout room
2. Discuss the Prompt Questions as a group and capture key messages using the "Sticky Note function"
3. These can be added by selecting the Sticky Note function from the side-menu
4. Colour code:
  - Yellow notes = Group comments
  - Blue notes = Coherence Panel comments
  - Green notes = Beneficiary comments
5. You can add notes individually or the group rapporteur can record what the group is saying.
6. The rapporteur will share their screen with the group in case some cannot access link.

**Breakout Room 1 (Session B)** Rapporteur: Anna

**Instructions:**

1. Select the Sticky Note function (fourth option in left-hand panel) from the side-menu or by pressing 'CTRL+SHIFT+P'
2. Colour code: Yellow notes = group comments, Blue notes = Coherence Panel comments, Green notes = Beneficiary comments
3. You can add notes individually or the group rapporteur will try and capture key points from discussion
4. Try and group similar or linked comments

General

Project Beneficiary

Coherence Panel

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**Prompt Question 1.** What integration and cooperation is needed across funding programmes to achieve the policy targets (eg. Sustainable Blue Economy, Missions, Green Deal)?

**Same rules in all funding streams**

Have calls with funds from different EU funding sources funding different steps of the value chain

The people who have the best overview are the people who assess the projects (i.e. EMFF)

Have also a best practices policy list

The reviewers could suggest ongoing and closed projects to cooperate

**Prompt Question 2.** What are the challenges in the current funding system? How could they be overcome?

**Challenge: to overcome lack of flexibility of some funding rules of the EC Agencies**

**Challenge: sustainability of the projects outcomes, namely databases**

It is very difficult for a startup to get financial backing to guarantee the pre-financing grant. It almost killed our participation

Could be overcome by having thematic/basin level portals that could be one stop shops for that thematic area/basin

## Breakout Room 2 (Session B)

Rapporteur: Olivia

General

Coherence Panel

Instructions:

1. Select the Sticky Note function (fourth option in left-hand panel) from the side-menu or by pressing 'CTRL+SHIFT+P'
2. Colour code: Yellow notes = group comments, Blue notes = Coherence Panel comments, Green notes = Beneficiary comments
3. You can add notes individually or the group rapporteur will try and capture key points from discussion
4. Try and group similar or linked comments

Prompt Question 1. What integration and cooperation is needed across funding programmes to achieve the policy targets (eg. Sustainable Blue Economy, Missions, Green Deal)?

Need to have a strong involvement from local stakeholders - can be difficult - legislation barrier, difficult to get permits to implement technology

From research level it needs to go to local stakeholders (depending on project) - a bottle neck but it is difficult to convince the local stakeholders (e.g. if permits are needed)

Better convince stakeholders, sharing solutions to solve problems - sharing documents (e.g. agreements) as examples

Legislation issues but also lack of legislation (does not bring in right direction)

Prompt Question 2. What are the challenges in the current funding system? How could they be overcome?

Pay attention to double funding - applying to different calls - you need to avoid double funding (declare in application)

Difficulties introducing technologies e.g. require business plan

In high TRL project - could have commercialisation opportunities - support is not so clear

Useful to get connected to policy makers

Communication - meetings were we can showcase what is possible and what are the needs

Difficult to scale-up at European level

Channel barriers through Assistance Mechanisms (they may link to national legislators to reach them)

Solution: Advisory support from EEN, provided information to get bank loans (other such as EIB) - EEN was key to help finding solutions - sharing visibility

Network has scale-up advisors. Projects can join network at any time. Can help find business partners. Can help create synergies. Companies can continue receiving help in their "climbing journey" - advisory achievement

It is often difficult for SME to co-fund a project

## Breakout Room 3 (Session B)

Rapporteur: Valentina

General

Project Beneficiary

Coherence Panel

Instructions:

1. Select the Sticky Note function (fourth option in left-hand panel) from the side-menu or by pressing 'CTRL+SHIFT+P'
2. Colour code: Yellow notes = group comments, Blue notes = Coherence Panel comments, Green notes = Beneficiary comments
3. You can add notes individually or the group rapporteur will try and capture key points from discussion
4. Try and group similar or linked comments

Prompt Question 1. What integration and cooperation is needed across funding programmes to achieve the policy targets (eg. Sustainable Blue Economy, Missions, Green Deal)?

There is overlapping and lack of coordination. Shipping and ports projects should be coordinated for examples.

Coordination to capitalize efforts: accessibility to data/maps (not only project reports)

Need for continuation: the results of the different research projects should be coordinated at policy level to then organise their continuation into concrete projects

Need to push more to FAIR data (still protecting intellectual property) FAIR, findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable data

help each other (e.g. main issue with anything related to hydrogen use is unavailability of infrastructure, so maritime vessels using hydrogen should learn from buses using hydrogen // so this support contract can really go

Prompt Question 2. What are the challenges in the current funding system? How could they be overcome?

One challenge is to select the best instrument (in a strategic vision)

lack of understanding of all instruments existing, and of connections between them that can help projects to grow (one of the WP of a candidate incoming Mission CSA is planning to work on this issue)

# Breakout Room 4 (Session B)

Rapporteur: Sarah

Instructions:

1. Select the Sticky Note function (fourth option in left-hand panel) from the side-menu or by pressing 'CTRL+SHIFT+P'
2. Colour code: Yellow notes = group comments, Blue notes = Coherence Panel comments, Green notes = Beneficiary comments
3. You can add notes individually or the group rapporteur will try and capture key points from discussion
4. Try and group similar or linked comments



**Prompt Question 1. What integration and cooperation is needed across funding programmes to achieve the policy targets (eg. Sustainable Blue Economy, Missions, Green Deal)?**



**Prompt Question 2. What are the challenges in the current funding system? How could they be overcome?**



# Breakout Room 5 (Session B)

Rapporteur: Eva

Instructions:

1. Select the Sticky Note function (fourth option in left-hand panel) from the side-menu or by pressing 'CTRL+SHIFT+P'
2. Colour code: Yellow notes = group comments, Blue notes = Coherence Panel comments, Green notes = Beneficiary comments
3. You can add notes individually or the group rapporteur will try and capture key points from discussion
4. Try and group similar or linked comments



**Prompt Question 1. What integration and cooperation is needed across funding programmes to achieve the policy targets (eg. Sustainable Blue Economy, Missions, Green Deal)?**



**Prompt Question 2. What are the challenges in the current funding system? How could they be overcome?**



# Breakout Room 6 (Session B)

Rapporteur: Alessandro

General

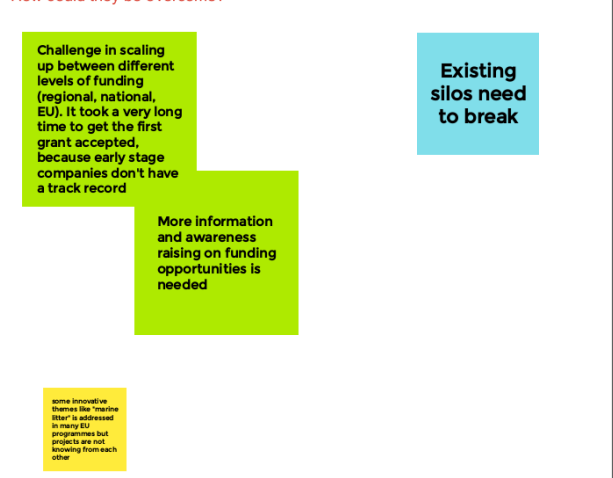
**Instructions:**

1. Select the Sticky Note function (fourth option in left-hand panel) from the side-menu or by pressing 'CTRL+SHIFT+P'
2. Colour code: Yellow notes = group comments, Blue notes = Coherence Panel comments, Green notes = Beneficiary comments
3. You can add notes individually or the group rapporteur will try and capture key points from discussion
4. Try and group similar or linked comments

**Prompt Question 1.** What integration and cooperation is needed across funding programmes to achieve the policy targets (eg. Sustainable Blue Economy, Missions, Green Deal)?



**Prompt Question 2.** What are the challenges in the current funding system? How could they be overcome?



# Breakout 1 (Session C)

**Instructions:**

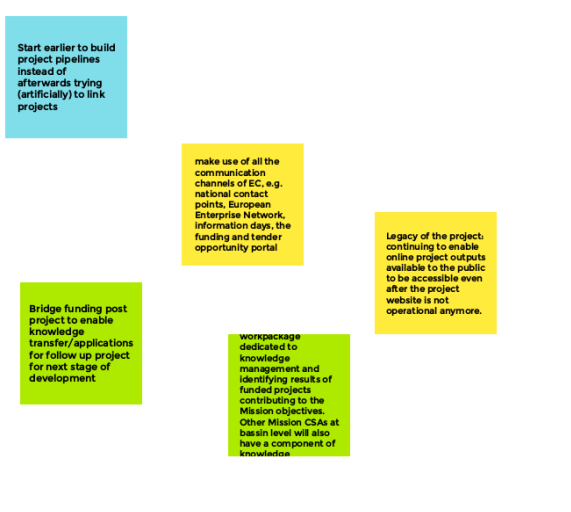
1. Select the Sticky Note function (fourth option in left-hand panel) from the side-menu or by pressing 'CTRL+SHIFT+P'
2. Colour code: Yellow notes = group comments, Blue notes = Coherence Panel comments, Green notes = Beneficiary comments
3. You can add notes individually or the group rapporteur will try and capture key points from discussion
4. Try and group similar or linked comments

General

Project Beneficiary

Coherence Panel

**Prompt Question 3.** How do we ensure valuable knowledge/results from completed projects are further developed in follow-on projects/initiatives?



**Prompt Question 4.** How can we ensure knowledge/results are applied at scale to have an impact? What stakeholders need to be mobilised to support scale-up?

