



ADRION THEMATIC CLUSTER ON BLUE GROWTH AND RELATED SMART GROWTH

NEWSLETTER #1



June 2020

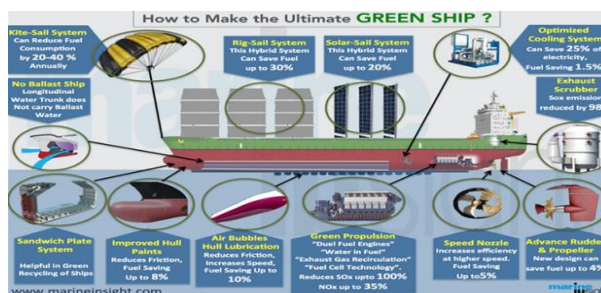
Message from Thematic Cluster Coordinator Prof. Nikitas Nikitakos, University of the Aegean (Greece)

Welcome to the 1st newsletter edition of the Adrion Thematic Cluster on Blue Growth and related Smart Growth. The objectives of Cluster consisted from 10 related project funded under Ionian Adrion framework is to promote the cooperation, to examine common synergies and to investigate new ideas for next programming period. We hope that this newsletter will create new ways of sharing our knowledge and news with you! Each month you'll get informative articles about Cluster's objectives, as well as updates on programs, contests, and other-related news.

In this issue we are presenting a brief introduction of all projects participating in Cluster having as final outcome a policy paper and new innovative ideas for next programming period on Blue Growth and its related Smart Growth. In this exercise i am open to any suggestion from all of you which could be send in my personal [e-mail](#) or through the projects participating in Cluster. Let's work towards valuable outputs!!!!

NEORION

Promotion of green maritime technologies and new materials to enhance sustainable shipbuilding in Adriatic Ionian Region



The maritime industry has always been a key economic sector in Adriatic Ionian Region, providing thousands of high skilled jobs and opportunities for SMEs and larger enterprises such as shipyards. These days the shipbuilding industry in Europe faces fierce competition coming mainly from Turkey, S. Korea and China, where shipbuilding capacity has grown exponentially. Ship construction has also been deeply affected by the lack of effective trade rules at global level and the absence of investment initiatives. The collapse in demand since 2008 had a severe impact on employment in this sector as well.

NEORION aims at establishing a transnational Cluster in the Adriatic-Ionian on Green Shipbuilding that will accelerate both the cooperation of key actors & innovation in the industry. NEORION is expected to reinforce the traditional shipbuilding sector through coordinated efforts that will facilitate the exploitation of innovative technologies and technology transfer between new complementary markets such as new materials & specialized vessels.

Main results of the project:

- Enhancement of the innovation capacity of the sector, creating a sustainable shipbuilding ADRIION cluster
- Development of tools to favour the cooperation of SMEs with research institutions
- Action plans to both foster economic growth of the sector and benefit the regional business ecosystem, through actions targeted to and initiated by representatives of the Quadruple Helix

More information: [NEORION Webpage](#)

SHIPmEnTT

Strengthening intellectual property and technology transfer processes in green sea mobility sectors



The SHIPMENTT project aims at establishing an innovation ecosystem focused on the green sea mobility sector (referred partially as green shipping in EUSAIR) across the ADRIION area. In the medium-term, the aim is to enhance the investments in regional R&D and increase the competitiveness of the local SMEs.

Today, the innovation activity in the region is fragmented and confined to the national borders allowing limited space for regional cooperation and economic growth. SHIPMENTT will establish a network of cooperating parties with a clear plan to shape the necessary conditions for a fruitful blue growth innovation ecosystem in the spirit of transnational cooperation.

Main results of the project:

- Support on a) IP management and b) access to finance to 250 SMEs: to improve their chances of collaborating with research institutions and attracting financial resources
- Facilitation of industry-academia collaboration for 50 SMEs: via the SHIPMENTT platform
- An all-inclusive strategy: for the development of a regional innovation ecosystem fuelled by blue-technologies in the green sea mobility field

More information: [SHIPmEnTT Webpage](#)

BLUE_BOOST

Boosting the innovation potential of the triple helix of Adriatic-Ionian traditional and emerging BLUE growth sectors clusters through an open source/knowledge sharing and community based approach



Maritime clusters within ADRION regions are characterized by a high heterogeneity of activities, a tangible interaction gap between their respective four helixes and a poor attitude to inter-clustering, especially at a trans-sectoral level. The BLUE_BOOST project aims at unlocking and boosting the potential of knowledge/technology transfer, transnational and cross-sectoral cooperation of key innovation actors of traditional (primarily fisheries and shipbuilding) and emerging (primarily Blue technologies-including aquaculture- green shipbuilding, robotics and new materials) Blue Growth sectors by reinforcing the relationships and interactions within and among their clusters according to an open source, knowledge sharing & community based approach.

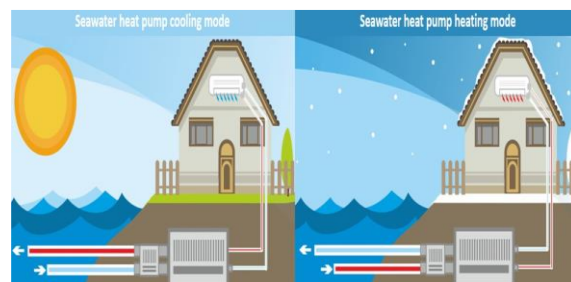
Main results of the project:

- Blue Boost transnational innovation voucher scheme and the funding of 35 innovative MSMEs and startups
- Development of the B_B networking platform
- B_B transnational innovation networking strategy and action plan to support ADRION maritime innovation stakeholders to jointly address future challenges thanks to B_B Tools.

More information: [BLUE BOOST Webpage](#)

SEADRION

Fostering diffusion of Heating & Cooling technologies using the seawater pump in the Adriatic-Ionian Region



The recent Heating and Cooling Strategy from Commission indicated that emissions related to energy used for heating and cooling of buildings can be significantly reduced with technologies which use renewable energy sources and have high efficiency. Taking this into consideration the SEADRION project aim to support the development of a regional innovation system for the

Adriatic-Ionian area with the installation of 3 renewable energy facilities in the public buildings located in Greece and western and south part of Adriatic Croatia. These facilities are seawater heat pump, an innovation system that uses the thermal energy contained in a reservoir (sea) to achieve the cooling and thermal energy in the buildings which are close to the sea. The main objective of the SEADRION is to identify benefits and barriers associated with the use of this technology and to find a system solution designed to improve the use of the seawater heat pump technology and to make the building's energy self-sufficient and independent of fossil fuels.

Main results of the project:

The main outputs of the SEADRION project are transnational seawater heat pump network to support sustainable development in ADRIION region, science and technology cooperation between research institutions and enterprises to enhance innovation capacity of the heat pump sector with the aim to enhance their innovation skills, capacities and competencies and common strategy to enhance the use of seawater heat pump based heating and cooling in ADRIION region.

More information: [SEADRION Webpage](#)

ARIEL

Promoting small scale fisheries and aquaculture transnational networking in Adriatic-Ionian macroregion



Ariel project focuses on small-scale fishery and aquaculture which are two key drivers for blue and sustainable growth of Adriatic and Ionian communities. Despite their relevance, those sector faces the same challenges of maritime spatial planning, environmental and socio-economic sustainability, better conditions for innovation uptake and for scientific knowledge dissemination, more effective cooperation between entrepreneurs, academia and policy makers.

ARIEL overall objective is the establishment of transnational knowledge network among research centers, public administrations and entrepreneurship who will act to drive policies and address innovation governance in two key sectors for the Adriatic Ionian (AI) Macroregional economy: small-scale fisheries (SSF) and aquaculture (AQ).

Main results of the project:

- Set-up a long term cooperation and knowledge network among the multilevel actors at regional and transnational level for innovation up-taking in small scale fisheries and aquaculture
- Support public administration in developing favourable legislative and programming framework and science-based policies
- Support small scale fisheries and aquaculture enterprises in making their business more sustainable
- Identification of common priorities for policy, research and market actions
- Co-management of fish stocks exploited by SSFs to share power and responsibilities among research, academia, government and fishing communities.

More information: [ARIEL Webpage](#)

BIOECO R.D.I

BIO-ECONomy Research Driven Innovation



The ADRION region has relevant unexploited potential of biomass from agricultural, fisheries and forestry waste and residues. The enterprises operating in such sectors are suffering serious delays in the green reconversion, multi-functioning, technology innovation, cross-sectoral integration. In this perspective, BIO-Economy represents a common smart specialization priority. BIOECO R.D.I aims at developing a Regional Innovation System for the Adriatic-Ionian area based on a structured bio-economy sector through the development of Research Driven Innovation (R.D.I.) strategy at regional and transnational level.

Main results of the project:

- BIOECO-RDI regional and international strategies supporting regions in increasing bioeconomy RDI level and cluster maturity

Thanks to the full implementation of those outputs, it will be possible to integrate in a unique and consistent process, regions living different steps in the process of creation of regional bio-economy. This process guarantees to the enterprises of the ADRION area to operate in a more advanced and integrated market, and to regional and national policy makers the needed support to develop effective policies based on circular economy approach.

More information: [BIOECO R.D.I Webpage](#)

PoWER

Ports as driving Wheels of Entrepreneurial Realm



Cultural borders & political rifts caused in the ADRION area a lack of cooperation and I&D, and a weak application of EU policies; as a result, ADRION ports, also due to small dimensions & infrastructural limits, lost their historical mission as places of exchanges, and suffer now from low modernization rate, inadequate smartness level, and unsolved issues related to sustainability and urban regeneration needs. On the other hand, ADRION ports are still complex ecosystems, offering the perfect substrate for becoming actors of the development in the area again. In this framework, PoWER aims to support the evolution of ports into Innovation Hubs, able to act as new transmission belts between regions, and to exploit their untapped entrepreneurial potential. In particular, PoWER fosters collaboration among the key-actors of the Innovation Supply Chain (ISC): cognitive institutions (schools, universities, and research bodies), enterprises and Pas, in order to turn the multi-layered challenges affecting ADRION ports into an opportunity to integrate, cross-fertilize and exploit the “power” of territories.

Main results of the project:

- The PoWER methodology for facilitating the collaboration between enterprises and research institutions and, in so doing, speeding up the building of ISCs;
- The Innovation Hubs Network (IHN);
- The IHN joint Strategy for the evolution of ports into innovation hubs, supported by an ICT Platform devoted to its implementation.

These outputs will allow the members of IHN to pursue the transformation of ADRION ports into IHs as well as the further enlargement of the Network.

More information: [PoWER Webpage](#)

ECO-NautiNET

Network's support for SMEs in the Nautical sector of the Adriatic-Ionian Region



The project main objective is the realization of a common and innovative ADRION's Network dedicated to SMEs, Research Institutions and Business Support Organizations with aim of improving SME's competitiveness and innovation in the Nautical sector and supporting their internationalization. In particular, the main objectives are:

- To tackle the lack of innovative collaboration among SMEs across the Adriatic-Ionian area, by using existing successful experiences in the EU area in the field of network model of organization and providing to the actors involved trainings, tutoring and the latest technologies available in the nautical sector;
- To realize concrete possibilities of cooperation in terms of process and products innovation among SMEs in the ADRION zone.

Main results of the project:

- An effective and stable collaboration between SMEs and/or Research Institutes thanks to a common Joint Management System platform, in order to improve competitiveness and innovation in the Nautical sector
- The realization of collaborations involving mainly innovative key actors such as the Chambers of Commerce and SMEs' Association and Development Agencies, for the development of a transnational and Adriatic-Ionian common ECO-NautiNET platform, aimed to support creation and growth of networks in the ADRION area
- To facilitate key innovation actors' work in supporting internationalization among local SMEs and ensuring common methodologies and possibilities to entrepreneurs and research institutes.

More information: [ECO-NautiNET Webpage](#)

OIS-AIR

Establishment of the Open Innovation System of the Adriatic-Ionian Region



The OIS-AIR project pursues the final goal of establishment the Open Innovation System of the Adriatic-Ionian Region (OIS-AIR), a single market place for technology and innovation competitive and attractive at macro-regional level.

OIS-AIR intends to strengthen the development of industrial and entrepreneurial activities within a virtuous circle involving relevant stakeholders from different sectors in Adriatic-Ionian Region, from research institutions to SMEs and public administration.

Main results of the project:

The project offers several benefits to SMEs and for the whole R&D system of the Adriatic-Ionian area:

- Development of the OIS-AIR platform (www.oisair.net)
- Definition of the OIS-AIR network, composed of 7 innovation centers and open to new members
- Definition of a Pilot macro-regional S3 for the Adriatic-Ionian Region
- Organization of 7 local open innovation workshops
- Delivery of 150 innovation services to SMEs
- Organization of the Proof Concept Call
- Delivery of 10 innovation vouchers (€18.500 each)

More information: [OIS-AIR Webpage](#)

FUTURE 4.0

Manufacturing education and training governance model for Industry 4.0 in the Adriatic-Ionian area



The shipbuilding industry and its related supply chain in Adriatic-Ionian region (EUSAIR) is facing great challenges and changes, being undeveloped and left behind with the urgent need to new technology brush ups. Shipyards are affected by the transformation of the entire value chain process involved in manufacturing industry with the effects on production, intercompany relations and human capital development. The solution is to implement new technologies brought by the Industry 4.0 (innovation, advanced technologies, computerization, robotics processes, automation, digitalization...) by encouraging sustainable and better management of Blue Economy. Future 4.0 project responds to the current challenges of the manufacturing industry of the shipyard and nautical logistic supply chain. The main objective of the project is to design a shared strategy to support SME's towards technology 4.0. The project will design Smart Learning Model and implement local pilot actions in order to disseminate innovation as well as knowledge management solutions in over 100 enterprises across Italy, Croatia, Albania and Greece.

The base for designing a suitable Industry 4.0 Smart Learning Model is using the known technique to help manage front part of innovation process (Technological Road-mapping) and

using new strategic planning tools to help envision various futures and creating more vibrant organizations (Foresight tools).

Main results of the project:

The results will be the foundation for designing of a knowledge, competence and innovative skills training and learning hub - FUTURE 4.0 PLATFORM by applying Triple Helix Approach - the set of interactions between academia, industry and governments.

More information: [FUTURE 4.0 Webpage](#)



Visit us



[Join the LinkedIn Group of this ADRION Thematic Cluster](#)

For more information about the ADRION Thematic Cluster on Blue Growth and Related Smart Growth visit the [Cluster Webpage](#)

