

Report of networking activities

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1. Introduction

This deliverable was produced within WP5, which aimed at preparing the capitalization and transferring of project results. It describes the networking activities performed by the COASTENERGY partnership in order to set the basis for the activities of the Joint Italian-Croatian Observatory on Coastal Energy Systems.

These networking activities (including, but not limited to the participation in external events under WP2) were aimed at establishing connections, consolidating collaboration, and creating synergies with other relevant projects/subjects/networks, as well as at widening the international community of stakeholders to other experts, potential investors and public bodies.

Three types of networking activities were considered in this report:

- Networking with EU-funded projects focusing on topics similar to those addressed by COASTENERGY (mainly blue energy, blue economy and business innovation) and/or working on the same geographical area (the Adriatic Sea and/or the Italian and Croatian regions targeted by COASTENERGY);
- Participation in networking events such as fairs and exhibitions, on themes that are of interest to the COASTENERGY project, with active involvement of partners as speakers, member of panels and focus groups, etc.;
- Networking activities with single entities and experts, also at local level, that have led to concrete results and set the basis for the transferring and replication of the project outputs.

The following sections describe each type of activity performed, synthesizing the main results achieved.

2. Networking with other EU projects

This activity involved the creation of relationships with EU-funded projects focusing on similar topics and/or on the same geographical areas, through:

- a) participation in events organized by these projects;
- b) involvement of partners of these projects in COASTENERGY local and cross-border events, and
- c) significant mutual interaction during external events.

During the project lifetime, COASTENERGY partners networked with **14 EU projects**, funded under different Programmes: Interreg MED, ADRION and IT-HR, and Horizon 2020. In all cases, experiences and achievements were exchanged, and basis were laid for future collaborations.

The following table provides a list of the projects contacted, and briefly describes the nature and results of the networking activities performed.

EU project (acronym and title)	Funding Programme	Networking activities performed
BLUE DEAL Blue Energy Deployment Alliance	Interreg MED	<p>Networking with the ongoing BLUE DEAL project was especially intense, because this project, being focused on the deployment of blue energy systems in the Mediterranean and involving Croatia as a target area, was considered by COASTENERGY partners as an essential contact.</p> <p>First, two members of the BLUE DEAL partnership (the Lead partner University of Siena and U-Space) were invited by UNICAM to the 2nd Cross-Border Hub (23/02/2021), where they presented the project and its methodology for blue energy potential analysis.</p> <p>Afterwards, SDEWES participated in the BLUE DEAL Transferring Lab organized by the University of Zagreb FSB in Split, Croatia (18–21/05/2021), presenting the COASTENERGY experience and joining a thematic discussion on blue energy planning in the region.</p> <p>The Chamber of Commerce of Chieti-Pescara also supported the director of the Marina of Pescara (host of one of the COASTENERGY pilot projects) in recording a video to launch an Open Innovation challenge as a shared initiative with BLUE DEAL.</p> <p>UNICAM invited a representative of the University of Siena, Lead partner of BLUE DEAL, to participate in a round table on the future perspectives of blue energy during the 2nd local conference (30/09/2021). The intervention focused on the tools for stakeholders' engagement (BLUE DEAL Labs, Open Innovation Challenges), providing suggestions for the future of the Coastal Energy Hubs. The University of Siena was once again invited by CMU to participate in the 4th Cross-Border Hub meeting (organised by the City of Ploče), where they made a presentation on the Life Cycle Assessment methodology.</p>
BLUE_CROWDFUNDING	Interreg MED	<p>The project (currently ongoing) aims to improve innovation capacities in blue growth sector by mainstreaming the use of public crowdfunding. SVIM, the development agency of Marche Region, is a partner, and was invited by UNICAM to join a roundtable on the future perspectives of blue energy during the 2nd Local Conference (30/09/2021). The intervention focused on the presentation of public crowdfunding mechanisms that could be used to support the active engagement of stakeholders and citizens in the deployment of blue energy initiatives.</p>

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4HELIX+ Empowering the 4 helix of MED maritime clusters through an open source/knowledge sharing and community-based approach in favor of MED blue growth	Interreg MED	The 4helix+ project (now concluded) aims at strengthening the transnational innovation process of blue economy clusters within eight MED regions, by offering coaching and funding (“blue vouchers”) to MSMEs and start-ups working in both traditional and emerging sectors. The 1 st Blue Digital Road Show on the environmental sustainability of blue enterprises (10/07/2020) was organized online by the Development Agency of the Marche Region SVIM, with the aim to present the enterprises that received funding from the project, and discuss sustainability issues. UNICAM participated by presenting the objectives of COASTENERGY, and disseminating contact information and communication materials. Being also involved as partner in the project, UNICAM developed this relationship by integrating the 4HELIX+ and COASTENERGY web platforms (both hosted by UNICAM servers), to capitalize results and enlarge the number of stakeholders reached.
MAESTRALE	Interreg MED	Though the MAESTRALE project ended in 2019, its findings on the blue energy potential in Mediterranean countries (and namely in Croatia) were considered an important asset to capitalize. Therefore, an official agreement was signed between UNICAM (in charge of developing the COASTENERGY web platform) and the University of Siena (former Lead partner of MAESTRALE), regulating the integration between the two projects’ webGIS and databases with the purpose to optimize and possibly upgrade and downscale the results of MAESTRALE.
BLUE GROWTH (Horizontal project)	Interreg MED	A representative of the Horizontal project was invited as a speaker in the Final Conference, with the purpose to assess the potentials for synergy between COASTENERGY and the projects on blue energy that are part of the Blue Growth thematic community.
iDEAL DEcision support for Adaptation pLan	Interreg Italy-Croatia	The COASTENERGY Lead Partner IRENA participated in the Final conference of iDEAL (10/09/2019). Main theme of the event was climate adaption planning and best practices from Italy and Croatia. Within the conference, IRENA presented the results of the project and the possible synergies with COASTENERGY. It was highlighted how the results from COASTENERGY (especially pilot projects) can be an example of climate adaption measure in project territories.
JOINT_SECAP Joint strategies for Climate Change Adaptation in coastal areas	Interreg Italy-Croatia	JOINT_SECAP focuses on inter-municipal climate mitigation & adaptation plans and one of its target areas is the Municipality of San Benedetto del Tronto, in the Marche region. UNICAM, being partner in both JOINT_SECAP and COASTENERGY, developed connections with the JOINT_SECAP team, inviting delegates to participate actively in one meeting of the Local Hub and in the 2 nd Local Conference, and joining in the JOINT_SECAP final event. One

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		result achieved was the inclusion of blue energy systems in one of the inter-municipal adaptation plans produced within JOINT_SECAP, as a possible decarbonisation action for the City of San Benedetto del Tronto.
ECOMAP Ecosustainable management of marine and tourist ports	Interreg Italy-Croatia	ECOMAP aims to help local ports to design better environmental strategies and to have access to suitable environmental management tools to remain competitive and to contribute to a more sustainable Programme area. Given the strong relevance of blue energy to ECOMAP objectives, SDEWES presented COASTENERGY at the 3rd International Congress of the project – Age of New Economy and New Jobs (Split, Croatia, 11/10/2021) to an audience of 100 attendees.
SUSPORT Sustainable Ports	Interreg Italy-Croatia	The main objective of SUSPORT is to enhance the environmental sustainability and energy efficiency of ports in the Programme Area, while TRANPOGOOD aims at improving the knowledge in the transport and logistics sector. Given the potential role of ports as pilot areas for the deployment of blue energy technologies, the Chamber of Commerce of Chieti-Pescara, being involved in both projects, networked with them within the framework of the events Aspettando Sottocosta (10-11/09/2019) and Visionaria Adriatic Innovation Forum (17-19/11/2021).
TRANPOGOOD Trasport of goods platform	Interreg Italy-Croatia	
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	Interreg ADRION	UNICAM, being partner of both COASTENERGY and BLUE_BOOST, was called to participate in the BLUE_BOOST online Final Event “BOOSTING THE INNOVATION POTENTIAL OF BLUE ECONOMY” (27/11/2020). The event was attended by 106 persons, including delegates of the ADRION Managing Authority and Thematic Cluster on Blue Growth, of the European Commission – DG MARE and of the EUSAIR Pillar 1, as well as representatives of other ADRION projects, and BLUE_BOOST partners in Italy and Croatia. It was therefore a good occasion for networking, disseminating COASTENERGY’s first findings, and highlighting the synergies between the two projects. UNICAM prepared a video-interview that was broadcasted during the event within a dedicated slot entitled “Blue vitamin: The power of the seas – COASTENERGY Project – INTERREG Italy-Croatia”. The video described the first findings of COASTENERGY on the blue energy potential in the Marche Region, and the pilot areas identified along the regional coastline.
SEADRION Fostering diffusion of Heating & Cooling technologies using the	Interreg ADRION	The University of Zagreb - Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, partner in SEADRION, was invited to the 3 rd meeting of the Cross-Border Hub to present the project common strategy to enhance the use of seawater heat pumps (a kind of

EU project (acronym and title)	Funding Programme	Networking activities performed
seawater pump in the Adriatic-Ionian Region		device that is used in several COASTENERGY pilot projects) in the ADRION region.
NEORION Promotion of green maritime technologies and new materials to enhance sustainable shipbuilding in Adriatic Ionian Region	Interreg ADRION	Representatives of the City of Ploče participated in the Arca 2019 Blue Green Hub Innovation Conference NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN THE BLUE SECTOR: "Green innovations in Croatian shipbuilding", which was held on 17/10/2019 at the Ministry of Economy and Entrepreneurship of the Republic of Croatia in Zagreb. The event was organized by the Association of Croatian Innovators (HRradi) and the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, within the framework of NEORION project. The topic of the conference was the presentation of challenges for the growth and development of innovations in the blue sector in Croatia. The City of Ploče distributed COASTENERGY brochures and presented the role of local self-government in strengthening the capacity to use EU funds and networking with scientific research institutions, stakeholders, non-profit organizations and business sector in strengthening the blue sector and COASTENERGY goals, activities and results. The event gathered 45 participants.
INSULAE Maximizing the impact of innovative energy approaches in EU islands	H2020	INSULAE aims at contributing to the Clean Energy for EU Islands Initiative by providing an Investment Planning Tool (IPT) able to create action plans for the islands to generate their own sustainable and low-cost energy. SDEWES attended with INSULAE the Sunset Unije Festival (a local festival of arts, culture, ecology, energy, technology and sports on the island of Unije) held on 13/07/2021, where both projects participated in a thematic working group on RES, water management and desalination on islands, and exchanged achievements, experiences and information.

3. Participation in networking events

The COASTENERGY project took part in several thematic events and fairs at international level, with the purpose to enlarge its network of contacts, especially among the business world.

In particular, the most relevant participations were in the following events:

- **OFFSHORE ENERGY 2020 – Amsterdam (NL), 27-28 October 2020 – Online edition**
- **OFFSHORE ENERGY 2021 – Amsterdam (NL), 26-27 October 2021**
OFFSHORE ENERGY is an international exhibition and conference, including a session dedicated to marine energy. The Sea Opportunities, stakeholder of the COASTENERGY project and member of the Marche Local Coastal Energy Hub, invited UNICAM as their guest to two editions of the conference. Consistently with the project progress, during the 2020 edition, preliminary results and findings were presented and discussed during an online roundtable organized by The Sea Opportunities, focused on blue growth in the Adriatic Sea. For the 2021 edition, a presentation of COASTENERGY results (with special attention to the feasibility studies of the pilot projects) and the project roll-up were displayed at the stand of The Sea Opportunities.
- **Blue Green Hub Forum, 30 May 2019, Zagreb (HR)**
The event, organized by the Association of Croatian Innovators, was attended by SDEWES that gave a presentation on COASTENERGY and participated in a general discussion on Research & Development in the Blue sector. Thirty persons were reached during the event.
- **RemTech Expo Digital Edition, 21-25 September 2020**
RemTech Expo is a world platform dedicated to territorial protection and sustainable development, divided into several environmental topics, including “Coast, Port and Sea”. UNICAM participated as a speaker in the "National Conference on Coastal and Marine Space Planning", focusing on the potential of coastal defence works incorporating blue energy systems. An abstract of the intervention is now available on line within a dedicated publication¹.
- **Smart Energy Systems Scientific Conference, 21 September 2021, Copenhagen (DK) and online**
The aim of the conference is to establish a venue for presenting and discussing scientific findings and industrial experiences related to Smart Energy Systems based on renewable energy, 4th Generation District Heating Technologies, electrification of heating and transportation sectors, electro fuels and energy efficiency. SDEWES participated with a speech on “Solving barriers for effective utilization of Seawater Heat Pumps for heating and cooling in the Adriatic region” that

¹ https://www.agendatecnica.it/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/REMTECH-DIGITAL2020_libro-abstract.pdf.

presented the findings of COASTENERGY. A summary of the intervention has been included in the Book of Abstracts².

- **Klima forum 2021, 7–8 October 2021, Umag (HR)**

The Climate Forum is part of the Professional Development Program for the period 2021-2022. IRENA presented COASTENERGY to representatives of large companies, faculties, etc., emphasizing the importance of using blue energy in Croatia and illustrating the pilot projects using seawater heat pumps and wave converters. Sixty persons were reached during the event.

- **16th SDEWES Conference, 10-15 October 2021, Dubrovnik (HR) and online**

The 2021 edition of the SDEWES conference brought together around 630 scientists, researchers, and experts in the field of sustainable development from 58 countries. SDEWES prepared the paper “Potentials for Implementation of Seawater Heat Pumps in Mediterranean” that was accepted as archival for this conference, and presented COASTENERGY on the networking event during the conference, reaching a total 300 persons.

Moreover, the project organized, as a side event of the Final conference, a **networking event for COASTENERGY partners and stakeholders** (24/11/2021) aimed to exchange experiences, share best practices, present and discuss results, problems occurred during projects implementation, and possible future improvements and collaborations on Blue Energy topics, also within the framework of the upcoming Interreg calls for the period 2021-2027.

Special guest of the event was Mrs. Varvara D. Bougiouri from the National Technical University of Athens, partner of the Interreg MED Horizontal project “Blue Growth”, who presented the Blue Growth Community’s experience and joined a discussion on how to optimize, coordinate and integrate the results of blue growth projects funded under different EU Programmes.

² https://vbn.aau.dk/ws/portalfiles/portal/449673780/SESAAU2021_BoA_ONLINE.pdf.

4. Networking with single entities and experts

This type of activity involved the creation and consolidation of relationships of project partners (and of the partnership as a whole) with public administrations, private enterprises and developers, either within the framework of the cross-border and local hubs, or functional to the development of the pilot projects.

The following table summarizes the activities performed with each organization, belonging either to the public sector (regional and local authorities), to the research and academic world (at international and national level), or to the business sector (enterprises and business support organizations).

As specified above, only the activities that have led to concrete results and set the basis for the transferring and replication of the project outputs were taken into consideration.

Overall, 7 public bodies, 9 research institutions (including universities) and 14 enterprises (including SMEs) and business support organizations and networks have been involved.

Organization/contact person	Type of organization			Type of involvement
	PA	R	B	
Regione Abruzzo (Mr P. D’Incecco)	X			CCIAA Chieti-Pescara networked with the regional administration of Abruzzo to get useful information for the definition of pilot projects in the Marina of Pescara and Vasto. This included the participation of the Region to the Local Hub meetings (WP4).
Regione Marche	X			UNICAM involved delegates from the regional administration of Marche in all Local Hub meetings (WP4), in bilateral meetings, and (as speakers) in both Local Conferences under WP2. This resulted in an invitation to participate in the 1 st meeting of the partnership roundtable organized by the Region on Objective 2 of regional programming of EU funds "A greener Europe" (27/07/2021). During the roundtable, attended by about 50 people, UNICAM drew attention to COASTENERGY topics, highlighting the possible synergies between the exploitation of marine renewables and reduction of coastal erosion risk, as well as the possible role of the Region in favouring the testing of new technologies, in collaboration with private companies. Moreover, the Local Hub animated by UNICAM produced a joint document containing 10 proposals to support the development of Blue Energy in the Marche area, which was shared with technicians and decision-makers from the Regional administration. This document was the basis for a proposal jointly prepared by UNICAM and UNIVPM (see below) and submitted to the Region in view of the agreement on strategic objectives and distribution of EU funds for the new programming period.

Organization/contact person	Type of organization			Type of involvement
	PA	R	B	
ARPAM - Marche regional agency for environmental protection	X			UNICAM involved ARPAM in the Local Hub (WP4), in the 2 nd Local Conference under WP2 (where a delegate from this body acted as speaker) and in bilateral meetings aimed at consolidating mutual collaboration and information exchange also after the end of the project.
Port Authority of Central Adriatic Sea	X			UNICAM involved both public bodies in the Local Hubs and in bilateral meetings and surveys to define the pilot projects. Though only the pre-feasibility for the Port of Ancona was developed in the end, the City of San Benedetto del Tronto agreed on including blue energy in the inter-municipal adaptation plan produced within the JOINT_SECAP project (see above), laying the basis for replication.
City of San Benedetto del Tronto	X			
City of Mali Lošinj	X			SDEWES organized bilateral meetings with representatives of the City of Mali Lošinj, during which an agreement was reached on the details for the development of the pilot project.
Port Authority of the Southern Adriatic Sea (Ugo Patroni Griffi)	X			Mr Patroni Griffi participated in two Local Hub meetings organised by CMU. The Port Authority is an essential stakeholder for any project to be implemented on and off the coast, because it is responsible for several types of authorisations.
ENEA (Eng. Gianmaria Sannino)		X		The Head of the Climate Modeling and Impacts Laboratory spoke at the 3 rd meeting of the Cross-border Hub on "The Ocean Energy SET PLAN: perspectives of Blue Energy in Europe and in the Mediterranean Sea". ENEA is also a partner in the Interreg MED BLUE DEAL project, one of the main networking targets of COASTENERGY.
RSE S.p.A. Ricerca sul Sistema Energetico (M. A. Peviani, Direction staff)		X		Mr Peviani of the RSE company was a speaker in the 3 rd meeting of the Cross-border Hub, where he presented the WaveSAX device that is being tested in the Port of Civitavecchia and could be applicable in the Port of Mola di Bari, one of COASTENERGY pilot areas. He was also a speaker in the Final Conference in Bari (25/11/2021).
University of Zagreb - Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture		X		Delegates from the Faculty were invited as speakers in both the 2 nd and 3 rd Cross-border Hubs. In particular, the Director of the Centre of technology transfer founded by the Faculty delivered a presentation on the use of heat pumps in heritage building that clarified some critical aspects of the application of seawater heat pumps.
University of Zagreb - Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering		X		During the 2 nd Cross-border Hub, Dr. sc. Marija Macenić gave a speech on the seawater thermal energy potential in Croatia, which is one of the focuses of the COASTENERGY pilot projects.
University of Trieste – Dept. of Engineering and Architecture (Prof. B. della Vedova)		X		During the 2 nd Cross-border Hub, Prof. Bruno della Vedova delivered a presentation on the potential, impact and best practice for shallow geothermal, which is the focus of the COASTENERGY pilot project in Friuli Venezia Giulia.

Organization/contact person	Type of organization			Type of involvement
	PA	R	B	
Horizon Europe Committee on Climate, Energy and Mobility (E. Basile)		X		Mr Basile from the University of Bologna spoke as delegate from the Horizon Europe Committee on Climate, Energy and Mobility at the 2 nd local conference organized by UNICAM (30/09/2021).
UNIVPM - Marche Polytechnic University, Dept. of Engineering (Prof. M. Brocchini)		X		UNICAM consolidated the collaboration with the Dept. of Engineering of UNIVPM by signing an agreement in order to further develop the pre-feasibility study produced during COASTENERGY and to design future joint research projects on blue energy topics.
CNR-IRBIM (Institute for Biologic Resources and Marine Biotechnologies)		X		Within the framework of an existing general agreement with the local branch of the National Research Centre, UNICAM developed a special collaboration for COASTENERGY, aimed at installing wave monitoring devices on the regional coast, in order to collect more reliable and detailed data on wave energy parameters, in view of a further development of the pre-feasibility study produced during the project.
University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli" (S. Russo)		X		Ms Sara Russo is a researcher working on the development of OBREC device; she participated in the 2 nd Local Hub meeting organised by CMU and is a key contact for providing technical information for CMU's feasibility study, and possibly making an agreement with the Municipality of Mola di Bari for testing the device in the port.
Marina di Pescara (Director B. Santori)			X	CCIAA Chieti-Pescara organized bilateral meetings with the private entity Marina di Pescara that manages the marina hosting one of the pilot projects. The Marina has been engaged in the project since the beginning and involved in the local hubs. Moreover, the director of the Marina recorded a video to launch an Open Innovation challenge as a shared initiative with the Interreg Med BLUE DEAL project.
RESINEX (Eng. F. Ciaglia)			X	CCIAA Chieti-Pescara held bilateral meetings with three private companies for collecting information on specific technical aspects of the pilot projects in the Marina of Pescara and Vasto, and especially: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical requirements of buoys in WEC systems (RESINEX); - Turbines to be installed in the OWC system (Faggiolati Pumps); - Hypothetical manufacturing of OWC caissons by using Cross Laminated Timber constructive elements (L.A. Cost). UNICAM held 3 bilateral meetings with Faggiolati Pumps, whose president was also as speaker in the 1 st local conference. The meetings aimed to evaluate the possible involvement of the enterprise in the development of prototypal marine turbines, and to search for grants to this purpose.
Faggiolati Pumps S.p.A. (Eng. G. Faggiolati)			X	
L.A.Cost (Eng. A. Costantini)			X	
GENERMA srl			X	UNICAM held bilateral meetings with the innovative start-up GENERMA to evaluate possible collaboration within the project and possible partnerships in developing future opportunities.

Organization/contact person	Type of organization			Type of involvement
	PA	R	B	
The Sea Opportunities			X	UNICAM involved The Sea Opportunities, a local innovative start-up, in bilateral meetings and in the Local Hub. The result of this collaboration is a PhD program on coastal blue energies, financially supported by PON Ministry funds for the next three years.
EcoWavePower (Y. Rudick, M. Sigal - Business Development Managers)			X	UNICAM invited the company, developer of the Wave Clapper device, to present it during the 3 rd meeting of the Cross-border Hub, and organized several bilateral meetings to get technical information for the development of the pilot project in the Port of Ancona.
Wave for Energy S.r.l. (A. Gulisano)			X	Mr Gulisano of Wave for Energy participated in the 1 st Local Hub meeting organised by CMU. Following this first contact, he was invited as speaker in the 3 rd Cross-border Hub meeting, to present the ISWEC device developed by the company, which is feasible in different pilot areas along the Italian coast of the Adriatic Sea.
Polo Tecnologico Alto Adriatico (G. F. Scolari)			X	UNICAM involved the Director of the Technological Hub of the High Adriatic Sea as a speaker in the 2 nd local conference (30/09/2021).
MARE FVG (M. C. Pedicchio)			X	UNICAM involved the President of the maritime cluster of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region as a speaker in the 2 nd local conference.
Optima therm ltd. (G. Šimunović)			X	This Croatian company participated in the 2 nd Cross-border Hub, during which the director Gojko Šimunović delivered a presentation on examples of use of seawater heat pumps in Croatia, which is one of the focuses of the COASTENERGY pilot projects.
HEP d.d. OIE			X	This energy provider from Croatia participated in the 2 nd Cross-border Hub, with a speech on the Plomin seawater hydropower plant and on coastal infrastructure in service of blue energy exploitation.
EEN – Enterprise Europe Network			X	Created by the European Union to support the internationalization process of European SMEs, Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) is a free business support network. A representative of EEN participated as a speaker in the Visionaria Adriatic Innovation Forum (17-19/11/2021) organized by the Chamber of Commerce of Chieti Pescara.
Assonautica			X	Assonautica has been established by the Union of the Italian Chambers of Commerce to promote yachting, nautical tourism and blue economy. The Chamber of Commerce of Chieti Pescara involved it in the maritime innovation promotion event Aspettando Sottocosta (10-11/09/2019).

Key: PA: Public Administration bodies at all levels

R: Research institutions, including universities

B: Enterprises (including SMEs) and business support organizations