



BIOBASED Development support of blue biorefinery in the Adriatic Sea

The project

- Partnership: University of Foggia, National Research Council - IRBIM, Mediterranean Aquaculture Association, University of Dubrovnik, Center for Entrepreneurship

Total budget: € 1.260.245,92

ERDF: € 1.008.196,73

Duration: 01.04.2024 - 30.09.2026

EU Programme: Interreg Italy-Croatia 2021-2027

Strengthening Collaboration Through BIOBASED Networking and Living Lab

Università di Foggia - October 31, 2025



AQUAFARM 2026 - February 18, 2026



The BIOBASED project continues to strengthen cross-border cooperation and stakeholder engagement in the Adriatic area through a series of networking and co-creation activities involving researchers, SMEs, public authorities, and key actors in the aquaculture and blue economy sectors. A key milestone was the 2nd Networking Event, held in Foggia on 31 October 2025 at the D.A.F.N.E. Department of the University of Foggia, titled "Seaweeds and Side-Streams: From By-products to Value". The event brought together a wide community of experts, businesses, and institutional representatives, providing a platform for discussion on innovative biorefinery approaches and the valorisation of seaweeds and aquaculture by-products, highlighting new opportunities for sustainable and circular applications. In parallel, BIOBASED has developed a series of Living Labs. The first, held at AQUAFARM (Pordenone), engaged participants in co-design activities addressing concrete challenges, market opportunities, and regulatory aspects of blue biotechnology. In Ston (Croatia), the Living Lab organised by the Centre for Entrepreneurship focused on strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem and supporting bio-based SMEs, while the one promoted by the University of Dubrovnik explored the potential of IMTA, guiding participants in the co-design of innovative bio-products and valorisation pathways. These activities contribute to building a more integrated cross-border ecosystem, fostering innovative and sustainable solutions for the blue bioeconomy in the Adriatic area.

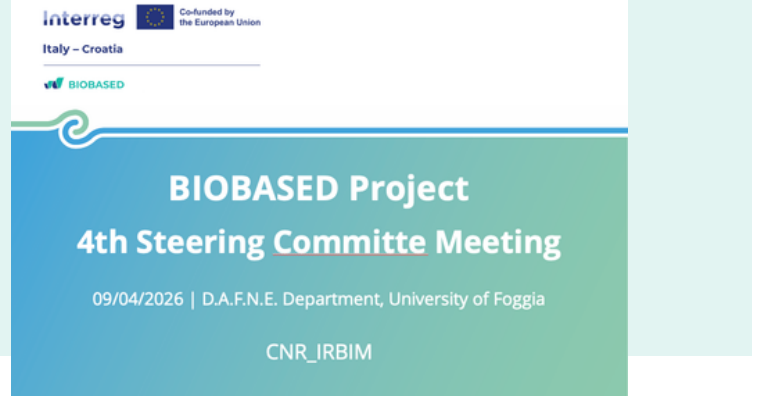


Fort Kaštio, Ston - March 20, 2026



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4° Steering Committee Meeting 9 april 2026, Foggia



The next Steering Committee Meeting of the BIOBASED project will take place in Foggia on 9 April 2026 and will involve all project partners. The meeting will represent a key coordination moment to share the progress achieved, monitor the state of play of the activities, and plan the next steps. It will also provide an opportunity to strengthen collaboration among partners and align strategies for the upcoming phases of the project.

BIOBASED takes the LEAD in the Blue Bioeconomy



BIOBASED-related cooperation is already translating into tangible results. This was clearly demonstrated at the DIH InnoVare Innovation Competition, held on 26 February 2026 in Porto Marghera (Venice), within the Interreg Italy-Croatia project DIH InnoVare, where the Star Biobased team — led by Professor Matteo Francavilla from the University of Foggia — secured first place among ten international finalists. The team, involving the University of Foggia, the University of Dubrovnik and the cooperative Varano La Fenice, presented an innovative multisensor device to monitor key environmental parameters affecting macroalgae growth in offshore IMTA systems, improving predictive capacity and supporting more efficient aquaculture management. BIOBASED also strengthened its international presence by participating in the Seaweeds 2026 Conference, one of the leading global events dedicated to seaweed research and innovation. The conference provided an important platform to engage with international experts, exchange knowledge and present BIOBASED's approach to sustainable blue biorefinery within a broader global context. Together, these milestones highlight the strong potential of BIOBASED to bridge research and real-world application, while reinforcing its presence both at European and international level.