



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

Meetings & Events

Cagnano Varano, Foggia - July 16, 2025



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During April–September 2025 period, the BIOBASED project entered a crucial phase with the launch of the **IMTA (Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture) pilot actions**, marking the transition from planning to on-the-ground implementation.

Starting from **July 2025**, pilot sites were activated in the **Gargano area (Italy)** and **Mali Ston Bay (Croatia)**, where innovative integrated aquaculture systems are being tested. These systems combine the cultivation of mussels, oysters, and seaweed to optimize resource use, reduce environmental impact, and enhance ecosystem balance.

The activities include testing different production configurations and continuous monitoring of environmental and biological parameters, with advanced analyses focusing on microbiome dynamics, gene expression, and nutrient flows. The aim is to assess the effects of IMTA systems on organism health, water quality, and overall sustainability.

In **September 2025**, partners gathered in Mali Ston for a first exchange on preliminary results. In Croatia, the **University of Dubrovnik** also hosted a **networking event** dedicated to Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA), bringing together project partners and local stakeholders, including SMEs, research organizations, and environmental actors, to explore the potential of algae-based systems and foster dialogue between science and industry.

These activities represent a key step towards developing innovative and sustainable solutions for the blue bio-economy in the Adriatic area.



Mali Ston Bay - July 16, 2025



Dubrovnik - September 25, 2025

3^o Steering Committee September 2025, Dubrovnik



On 24 September 2025, the BIOBASED partners gathered for the **3rd Steering Committee Meeting**, hosted by the **University of Dubrovnik**. The meeting focused on reviewing the progress achieved so far, including the identification of macroalgae species and the implementation of pilot aquaculture systems across the Adriatic Sea.

Partners also discussed the next steps of project, with particular attention to upcoming activities and stakeholder engagement, ensuring strong coordination for the following phase.

Project Visibility & Dissemination



33rd European Biomass Conference & Exhibition Valencia, Spain - June 11, 2025



Seagriculture Conference 2025 Rotterdam, Netherlands - June 19, 2025



Europa Researchers' Night Foggia, Italy - September 26, 2025

The BIOBASED project was actively presented across several **international events**, enhancing its visibility within the blue bioeconomy and aquaculture sectors. The project was first showcased at the **Italian Oyster Fest** in La Spezia on 17 May 2025, within a workshop on European initiatives supporting sustainable oyster, mussel, and seaweed farming. It was then presented at the **European Biomass Conference & Exhibition** (11 June 2025, Valencia), where it attracted strong interest from researchers, industry experts, and policymakers.

From 17 to 19 June 2025, BIOBASED participated in the **Seagriculture EU Conference** in Rotterdam, where it was featured in the poster session and engaged with key stakeholders, including representatives of the European Commission. The project was also presented within the **Blue Biotechnology Focus Group**, contributing to discussions on innovation in the sector.

Finally, on 26 September 2025, BIOBASED was featured during the **European Researchers' Night**, highlighting its role in promoting sustainable aquaculture through IMTA and its contribution to the One Health approach.

