

Final report

A SEA OF EVENTS IN RIMINI WITH THE FLAG GALPA COSTA EMILIA ROMAGNA AND THE BLUESLINKS PROJECT

Hackathon, Innovation day, Young area dedicated to the aquaculture and fisheries sector
Rimini, Ecomondo & Fuori Salone, from 4 to 7 November 2025

5th November 2025, Rimini Ecomondo Fair

6th and 7th November 2025- Rimini Ecomondo Fair & Motonave Bella Rimini

*Act. 3.4 Organisation of Hackthons for SMEs and graduates
start ups*

Activity 3.5 Organisation of Innovation Open days





Summary

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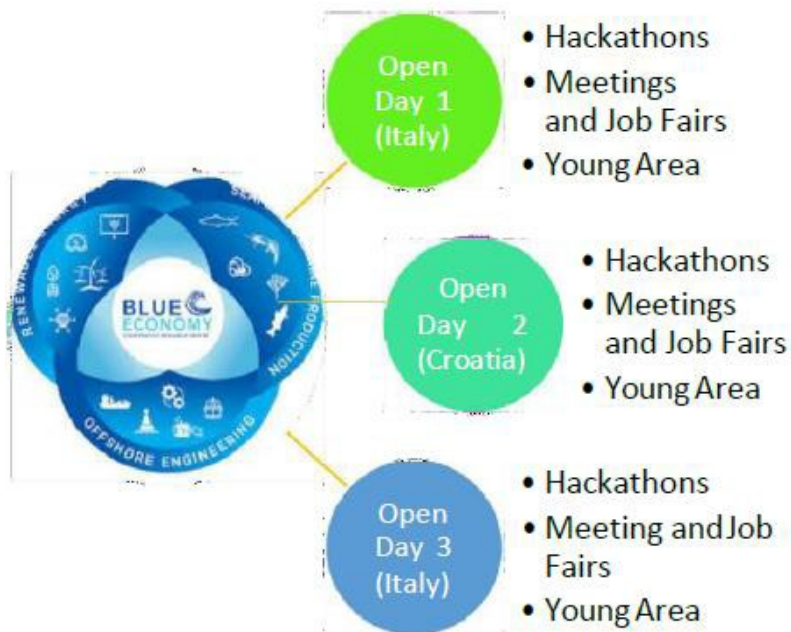
Innovation Open Day on Aquaculture and fisheries: general framework and...

Innovation Open Days are instruments/events adopted by the BLUESLINKS project, including the match-making mechanisms within Blue Economy, in the following sectors:

1. Aquaculture and fisheries;
2. Fisheries tourism;
3. Nautical and Linked Services.

Each **Innovation Open Day** revolves around the organization of the following **three initiatives**, to be organized according to different paths and timelines, according to logistical needs:

- **Hackathon competitions:** aimed at graduates and/or start uppers, who will compete in an open competition lasting 24/48 hours max, during which they will develop project ideas relating to the BE sectors connected to the BLUESLINKS project, with a jury of experts, composed of SMEs and other stakeholders, who will award the winning idea;
- **Open Day:** classic format, as an open job fairs, to be organized also in the context of more already organized trade fair events, aimed at potential matching jobseekers with SMEs of the BE sectors.
- **Young Areas:** where students selected under study visits of A2.5 of BLUESLINKS project and other selected classes present, under the supervision of their professor, their experience in the SMEs of the Blue Economy.



... in brief

The Second Innovation Open Day on Acquaculture and Fisheries, it was organized in the context of the Ecomondo Fair, in the contest of events “ **A SEA OF EVENTS IN RIMINI WITH THE FLAG GALPA COSTA EMILIA ROMAGNA AND THE BLUESLINKS PROJECT - Hackathon, Innovation day, Young area and study visit dedicated to the aquaculture and fisheries sector**, which took place in Rimini from 4th to 7th November 2025. The following matchmaking events were organized as part of the event:

Innovation Open day “Business Blue Talk”: the event was held on 5th November 2025 in Ecomondo Fair, in the stand of Blueslinks project, with all partners invited to join. It featured networking areas and thematic discussion tables where SMEs, researchers, students, and institutional actors shared perspectives on innovation, skills growth, and job prospects in the Blue Economy sector. Total participants are been n. 46 , composed by **17** representative of partners project, 21 SMEs and experts and 12 studentes.

Hackathon Competition “The blue way hackathon : aquaculture and fisheries cluster” on November 6-7, the event took place at Ecomondo Fair and in the Motonave BellaRimini in the port of Rimini . It brought together **11** graduates from both Adriatic shores, **17** staff members from project partners (including mentors), and **22** SMEs and experts (with 12 representative of SMEs, 8 jury representatives, 1 representative of Italian Ministry - *Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito* and 1 representative of Municipality of Rimini speakers at the lunch conference), for a total attendance of **50** individuals. During the closing ceremony on November 7th at Conference room in Economondo Rimini , 3 project concepts were highlighted.

Young Area “Young generation Dissemination Day”: it was also carried out with the participation of Emilia Romagna schools involved by LP DELTA 2000 in presence and other schools connected on line in the day of 7th November, for a total of n. 9 schools participating at the event. *(During the event in Rimini DELTA 2000 also realized the 2.5 Creation of Blue Economy knowledge with the study visits of n.2 schools of Emilia Romagna region – Cesena and Ravenna in Rimini Fiar – See the specific report)*

In the following parts of this report the detail of events organized.



Project Partners involvement

Project partners were involved during the organisation of Hackathons, Open Days and Young Area, as follows:

Hackathon competition 2

The organisation, logistics, contacts, awards and other aspect of the first Hackathon Competition were edited by LP DELTA 2000, in the context Ecomondo Fair.

Partners project participated at the events in Rimini.

Here is reported the number of representatives per each partner:

LP: 3 representatives + 2 external expert involved ;

PP2: 2 representatives;

PP3: 1 representative;

PP4: 2 representatives;

PP5: 2 representatives;

PP6: 1 representatives;

PP7: 2 representatives ;

PP8: 2 representatives.

Total n. partnership participation 17



THE BLUE WAY HACKATHON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES

DELTA 2000 was responsible for organizing a Hackathons Competition dedicated to aquaculture and sustainable fishing; a challenge in which, for 24 hours, multidisciplinary teams will meet and compete on real proposals aboard the Bella Rimini motor vessel in the Port Canal, developing ideas and scenarios with future visions capable of finding innovative solutions to the problems and needs of the fishing and aquaculture sectors. The hackathon will take place in conjunction with Ecomondo, with live coverage on social networks and video testimonials that will be broadcast at the project stand (Hall B6).



Info, details and registration at the Hackathon at the link


Italian Version <https://sites.google.com/view/bluehackaton2025/italiano>


English version <https://sites.google.com/view/bluehackaton2025/english?authuser=0>

The events was been a sort of **48 hours of hands-on innovation: you'll work in multidisciplinary teams to design prototype solutions addressing in the aquaculture and fisheries sectors, tackle climate change, and enhance the competitiveness of businesses in the industry.**


4 Topics based on issues and themes emerged during the wp 1 and infodays.


1 Resilient, Diversified, and Sustainable Aquaculture

 Climate change is rapidly transforming marine ecosystems.

 Challenge: Ideas and strategies to diversify aquaculture production, introduce new farmable species with higher yields, and counter the invasion of alien species such as the blue crab. Solutions for sustainable aquaculture that reduce environmental impact and promote social responsibility.

2 Sustainable Fishing and Biodiversity Protection

 Innovative solutions for managing fish stocks, with a focus on small pelagic species and other overfished stocks (e.g. eel, mackerel).

 Challenge: Proposals for selective fishing methods, management of marine protected areas, identification of nursery zones, fishing bans and seasonal closures.



3 Circular Economy and Waste Valorization

🌱 How to transform fishery and aquaculture waste into valuable resources (e.g. feed, bioplastics, fertilizers).

🗑️ Management of marine litter and accidentally caught waste (e.g. ecological stations in ports).

💡 Challenge: Enhancing the role of fishers in marine litter management, focusing on recovery chains and awareness-raising activities to prevent marine litter.

4 Education, Promotion, and Social Impact

📱 Campaigns and digital tools to raise consumer awareness.

🐟 Promotion of local fish and strengthening the connection between coastal communities and the Blue Economy.

🤝 Focus on social impact, inclusion, and transparent governance.

💡 Challenge: Promoting traceability and conscious consumption of local seafood products through digital solutions.

So the events took place on November 6-7, the event took place at Ecomondo Fair and in the Motonave BellaRimini in the port of Rimini.

It brought together **11** graduates from both Adriatic shores, **17** staff members from project partners (including mentors), and **22** SMEs and experts (with 12 representative of SMEs, 8 jury representatives, 1 representative of Italian Ministry - *Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito* and 1 representative of Municipality of Rimini speakers at the lunch conference), for a total attendance of **50** individuals. During the closing ceremony on November 7th at Conference room in Ecomondo Rimini, 3 project concepts were highlighted

Main steps:

Open ceremony

On the first day, the Hackathon will begin with the [Opening Ceremony: Hackathon Competition "BluesLinks" Project](#) in Ecomondo Fair in Rimini, Ocean Arena Hall B8.

🕒 [From 10.00 to 11.15](#)

📍 [Ecomondo Fair in Rimini, Ocean Arena Hall B8](#)

🔊 [Opening Ceremony Hackathon](#)

- Official presentation of the Hackathon and the proposed challenge
- Introduction of the tutors who will guide the teams and the jury

Program – Hosted/Moderated by Angela Nazzaruolo and Massimo Bellavista

Institutional greetings

- Anna Montini, Councillor for the Blue Economy of the Municipality of Rimini



- Giulia Carboni, Head of Coordination of the Sustainable Blue Economy Programme at the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency, European Commission
- Alessandro Pititto, Director and Head of International Area, COGEA, bip Group.
- Elena Gaudio, Ministry of Education and Merit
- Frigate Captain (CP) Ottavio, Cilio, Commander of the Port Authority of Rimini
- Cristian Maretti, President of Legacoop Agroalimentare



<https://www.youtube.com/live/Zim0jAc1Hi0?si=-U0qvwj7vNoVMfca>

Launch of the 4 Hackathon challenges "Cluster Fisheries and Aquaculture" - Speakers

- Topic 1 . Aquaculture - Laura Lanci, graduated in veterinary medicine, expert in shellfish farming
- Topic 2 - Simona Zaninović, Argonaut, expert in the field of fisheries, aquaculture and sustainable management of marine resources
- Topic 3 - Valentina Zambetti for Confcooperative Veneto, expert in European cooperation projects related to the blue economy
- Topic 4 - Massimo Bellavista, Head of Fisheries and Aquaculture Emilia-Romagna for Legacoop
-

After the presentations, the activities continued at the location of competition: Motorship Bella Rimini c/o Canal Port of Rimini.

The competition

Motorship Bella Rimini c/o Canal Port of Rimini, Quay of Via Sinistra del Porto/Via Fratelli Leurini



After start the real *challenge* in the Canal Port, on board the Bella Rimini motor ship, where multidisciplinary teams will discuss and challenge on real proposals, develop ideas and scenarios with future visions, capable of finding innovative solutions for problems and needs of the fishing and aquaculture sectors. The hackathon will take place in connection with Ecomondo with live broadcasts on social networks and video testimonies that will be broadcast at the Blueslink project stand (Hall B6 Stand 216).

The methodology followed has been based on Sprint Design Method . After the introductory session, participants collaborated in teams across six working phases over nearly 24 hours:

A. idea sharing and brainstorming; B. initial development; C. design ; D. advanced development; E. final refinement;

F. pitch to the jury

The 11 participant has been assistend by mentors, experts, SMEs presented during the activities.

At the end they presented the project idea with a pitch / power point presentation at the jury.





Jury was composed by **8 member**. All the criterias and evaluation grid are available in the Annex .

Dino Cataldo Pierri, Professor at the University of Bari/POLOAA

Vittorio Superbi, University of Ferrara /LP DELTA 2000,

Alberto Rebonato and Filippo Menin, representing Confcooperative Veneto

Nicola Scapicchio, Business Designer, Innovation Manager, Temporary Manager, Business Consultant and Team Facilitator, representing Flag Costa dei Trabocchi


- Alberto Basset, Full Professor of Ecology at the University of Salento
- Ivona Jadrić, Director of ARGONAUTA, Association for Environmental Protection and Spatial Development of the Island of Murter
- Valentina Knežević , representing Zadra Nova, Zadra's development agency





Award ceremony

 From 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm – 07.11.2025

 Agorà Blue Economy Hall B7, Announcement of the winners and awarding of the teams in the framework of event “ [Blue Skills & Jobs: nuovi profili professionali e nuove competenze per la crescita blu sostenibile](#) “

<https://www.ecomondo.com/it/dettaglio-evento/Blue%20Skills%20Jobs%20nuovi%20profili%20professionali%20e%20nuove%20competenze%20per%20la%20crescita%20blu%20sostenibile?eventId=3055404>

Project proposal has been n.3.

- **1st place for the project idea Pangea**, proposed by the team composed by Samuele Benetti, Enrico Renzi, , Veronica Vitali, Francesco Nobile and Cristian Rovea. PANGEA, which proposed a bold and concrete solution for the aquaculture sector. By replacing traditional fishmeal with Single Cell Protein, produced from microorganisms and renewable substrates, the team tackled some of the sector’s biggest challenges: environmental impact, rising costs, and dependency on imported resources.



- **2nd place tied, with project ideas: Ribanet** (team composed by Ema Starešinić, Ivan Ujvari Čeh, Korina Jusup) and **Tilapia 360°** (team composed by Riccardo Brusa, Riccardo De Nicolò e Michele Carbotti)



In the annex (ANNEX 1.) :

- 3 Attendance sheets : juries, participants, PPS and smes/experts
- Rules of competition
- Jury evaluation
- Power point presentation of 3 final Pilot idea
- Hackathon Video



INNOVATION OPEN DAY: BUSINESS BLUE TALK

Rimini Expo Centre – Stand Blueslinks - Padiglione B6 – Stand n. B216

From 10.00 am to 6.00 pm

In the Rimini Expo Centre, **Innovation Open day: Business Blue Talk** was space open to the public at the Blueslinks stand with a calendar of meetings where companies and universities/research centers present themselves and illustrate job opportunities in their sector (companies), present specialized training courses (universities and research centers).

For participants and those who are interested, it will be possible to interact and introduce themselves to the institutions and companies present and, through a QR code, connect to an online form to be able to enter their personal profile and upload their CV.

BLUESLINKS
INNOVATION AND SMART SPECIALIZATION
IN CROSS-BORDER BLUE ECONOMY

Innovation Open Day Business Blue Talk

5 November 2025 - Stand Blueslinks B6-216

Open area with presentation & meetings where companies and universities/ research centers present themselves and outline job opportunities in their sector (companies) and specialized training programs (universities and research centers).

Speakers agenda:

- 11.00 Luca Barani, Project Manager Sea the change
- 11.30 Luca Di Nicola, Senior Product Specialist, Infoteam
- 12.00 Antonio Moritti, President of the Itaca Cooperative, Ulysses the Italian Seaweed and Vice President of the Casa del Pescatore Cooperative of Cattolica
- 14.30 Selene Galante, Master in Law and Economics of the Sea
- 15.30 Simona Zaninovic, SMEs HIPPOCAMPUS jdoo
- 16.00 Sanja Tomsic, University of Dubrovnik

**Looking for job opportunities
or training opportunities?
You're in the right place! Here you can:**

- Introduce yourself to the companies and universities you meet at Business Blue Talk and discuss career or training opportunities.
- Submit your personal profile and CV using the form accessible by scanning the QR code.

Il tuo profilo e cv sarà distribuito alle aziende e università partecipanti e alle organizzazioni partners.

SCAN THE QR CODE
AND SEND YOUR
PROFESSIONAL PROFILE
AND CV

<https://www.italy-croatia.eu/it/web/blueslinks>

Speakers:

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- 14.30 Selene Galante, presents Master in Law and Economics of the Sea
- 15.30 Simona Zaninovic, presents SMEs HIPPOCAMPUS jdoo -
- 16.00 UNIDU Sanja Tomsic, University of Dubrovnik



At the event participated other than the partners project also 21 people representative of SMEs and 12 students of Universities, with a total participants of n.46 people.

The topics discussed and presentation are been the following:

- **Luca Barani presented Sea the change.**

Sea The Change is an interdisciplinary initiative that supports companies in developing sustainability pathways focused on the protection of water resources and marine ecosystems. Acting as an ideal partner for both SMEs and large corporations, it helps organizations integrate sea-based sustainability solutions into their broader environmental and CSR strategies. The process begins with an assessment of a company's sustainability and social responsibility needs, followed by the identification of the most suitable



Sea-Based Solution. These solutions are then implemented as impactful projects that become part of the company's long-term sustainability strategy. Beyond implementation, Sea The Change also assists organizations in communicating the positive impact they generate, ensuring that stakeholders clearly understand the value created for local communities and marine environments. Overall, Sea The Change guides businesses toward a model of growth that combines competitiveness, innovation, and responsible stewardship of the sea.



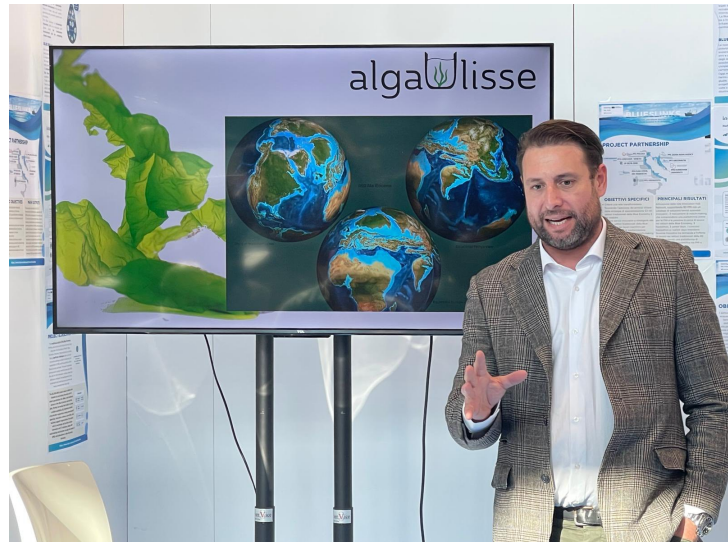
Luca di Nicola presented **Infoteam and E-fish**. **e-Fish®** is an advanced software platform designed to manage the **entire seafood supply chain**, covering every stage from production to sale. It is built by Infoteam and integrates cutting-edge technologies such as **Blockchain, IoT, RFID, and Artificial Intelligence** to ensure full traceability and transparency of fishery and aquaculture products.

The system includes specialized modules that support:

- Complete product traceability across the supply chain
- Electronic fish auctions
- Quality label management (e.g., DOP, IGP)
- A digital marketplace for online commercialization
- Sustainable strategies, including *Farm to Fork* models applied directly on fishing vessels



- Antonio Moritti, President of the Itaca Cooperative presented Ulysses the Italian Seaweed. **AlgaUlisse** is a project dedicated to enhancing the natural qualities of edible seaweeds and promoting their sustainable use. It offers fresh, preserved, and processed algae products—ranging from gourmet selections to powders, flakes, and innovative food items like algae-based piadina. The initiative aims to show the versatility of algae as nutritious, flavorful, and environmentally friendly ingredients, while supporting a responsible and innovative approach to marine resources.



- Selene Galante presented the *Second-Level Master in Maritime Law and Economics*, realized by the **University of Teramo** in collaboration with the **Chieti–Pescara Chamber of Commerce**. It is a highly specialized postgraduate program jointly organized by the **University of Teramo** and the **Chamber of Commerce of Chieti and Pescara**. Recognized since 2010/2011 by **UNRIC**, the United Nations Regional Information Centre, it is considered a unique and prestigious program in Italy. The Master provides participants with an **advanced and comprehensive understanding of: Maritime law** at national, European, and international levels, **Maritime and port activities**, navigation, safety, and security, **Marine resource management**, including fisheries and aquaculture, **Environmental protection** of marine and coastal areas, **Port systems, logistics, and maritime infrastructure**, **Tourism related to the sea and coastal areas**, **Contracts, transport law, and maritime business economics and Maritime English**. The program combines academic rigor with strong institutional and industry connections, involving ports, international organizations, universities, and maritime authorities.

Professional opportunities are related to : **Employment and collaborations:** Graduates may obtain positions or collaborations with **Tourist ports and Port Authorities**, **FAO** (Food and Agriculture Organization), **ICE** (Italian Trade Agency), **Fincantieri**, **European Commission**, **ESA** (European Space Agency), **ENAC** (Italian Civil Aviation Authority), **Nisea** (research center in Salerno), **Assonautica** and various companies in the **private sector**

2. Consultancy activities. Professional consultancy opportunities include **Maritime law and the law of the sea**, **Public maritime domain**, **Environmental protection of marine and underwater ecosystems**, **Contract law** related to maritime and air transport and **Port operations, logistics, and transport regulation**

3. Teaching and training. Graduates may also work as **Specialized lecturers** in maritime studies, transport, and Blue Economy and Trainers in **Italian and international academic or professional programs**



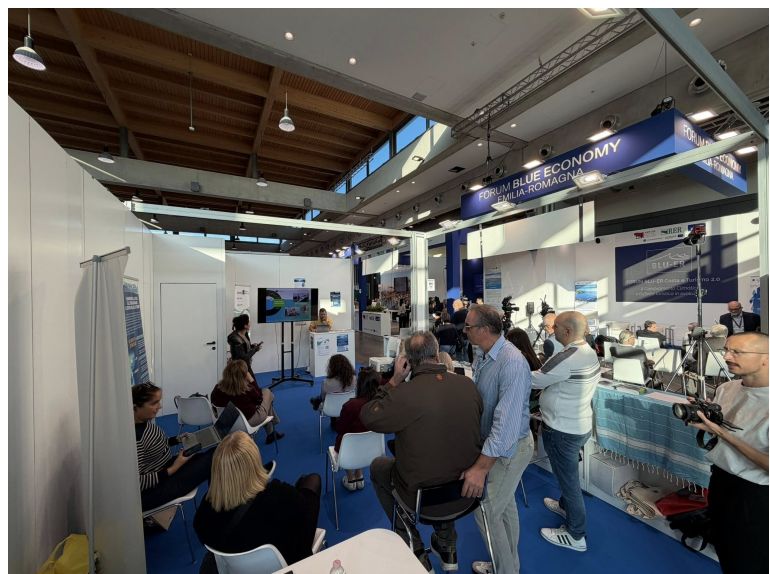
4. Career advancement. Studies in this field support **Military career progression and Civil service advancement:** access to specialized roles in public administration and regulatory bodies

- Simona Zaninovic, presents **SMEs HIPPOCAMPUS jdoo** . Simona Zaninović is a Croatian marine biologist and environmental consultant dedicated to the protection and sustainable use of marine ecosystems. Based in Šibenik, she is the founder and CEO of Hippocampus j.d.o.o., a company that brings together scientific research, education, and sustainable business practices within the maritime sector.
- She presented Hippocampus that has become a small but dynamic hub for innovative marine initiatives. The company provides technical consulting and environmental assessment for projects related to aquaculture and marine conservation, while also engaging in public education and community outreach. By merging science, entrepreneurship, and environmental stewardship, Simona Zaninović and Hippocampus are charting a forward-looking path for the Adriatic's blue economy — one built on knowledge, responsibility, and respect for the sea
- At the end, Sanja Tomsic presented **University of Dubrovnik** activities and courses, in particular linked to Blue Economy, sea and water. The University of Dubrovnik (Sveučilište u Dubrovniku) is one of Croatia's leading academic institutions in the fields of the Blue Economy, marine sciences, and sustainable coastal development. Its programs blend scientific research, environmental management, and maritime technology — positioning the university as a regional hub for innovation in Adriatic marine studies.

The key courses and academic pathways related to the Blue Economy and marine sciences are several as, with reference to *Undergraduate and Graduate Studies*, Applied Marine Ecology (Primijenjena ekologija mora), . Mariculture (Marikultura), Maritime Studies (Pomorstvo); *Doctoral and Postgraduate Studies* : Doctoral Program in Applied Marine Sciences (Primijenjene znanosti o moru) and Biology other than International and Research Initiatives

So the focus Areas of the Blue Economy at the University of Dubrovnik are

- Marine ecology and environmental protection
- Sustainable aquaculture and fisheries
- Maritime transport and smart port management
- Renewable marine energy and technology transfer
- Circular economy in coastal regions
- Policy integration for sustainable Adriatic



management


- The University's close ties with local communities, marine industries, and European research networks make it a key driver of innovation and sustainability in the Adriatic Sea region—preparing students to lead the transformation toward a greener, smarter maritime future.


In the annex (ANNEX 2.) :

- Presentations
- Attendance sheets participants



YOUNG AREA “YOUNG GENERATION: DISSEMINATION DAY”

 Rimini Expo Centre c/o Agorà Blue Economy Hall B7

 From 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm

As part of the conference [Blue Skills & Jobs: new professional profiles and new skills for sustainable blue growth](#) - Agorà Blue Economy Hall B7 (*), organized by the Ecomondo & Legacoop Agroalimentare North Italy Technical Scientific Committee, Demetra Formazione in collaboration with MARE Cooperative, Delta 2000/ GALPA Emilia-Romagna Coast, a **special afternoon section of the works will be entirely to the young men and women who will be the real protagonists and who will present their ideas and projects in the sustainable blue economy.**

The session will be dedicated to the **schools involved by the partners of the BLUESLINKS project** who, after the first activities of meeting in schools and study visits, will discuss and present their ideas and projects to schools from the other partner territories of the BLUESLINKS project.

So, in the Young Area within the “Blue Skills & Jobs” conference, students from schools in Italy and Croatia including Dubrovnik, Šibenik, Zadar, Lecce, Ortona, and Ravenna, presented their innovative projects for sustainable marine development. This vibrant exchange showcased the creativity, environmental awareness, and ambition of the next generation leading the transition toward a greener and smarter Blue Economy.

AGENDA YOUNG GENERATION: DISSEMINATION DAY

14.30 Introduction by the moderator Massimo Bellavista

14.40 Interventions by the schools of the territories of the Blueskills project partners and presentation of the projects developed by the institutes involved:

- Naval Technical Institute NULLO BALDINI Ravenna , in presence
- Versari Marcelli State Professional Institute of CESENA, in presence
- Ortona Nautical Institute - CH
- Mo.st Technical Institute of Ortona - CH
- Scientific High School COSIMO DE GIORGI LECCE
- Technical and Economic Institute GRAZIA DELEDDA LECCE
- Agricultural, Food and Veterinary School Stanko Ožanić, Zadar HR
- Antun Vrančić High-school, Sibenik HR
- Pomorsko-tehnička škola / Nautical and Technical School of Dubrovnik HR

16.20 - Elena Gaudio, Ministry of Education and Merit

16.30 Conclusion of the Young Generation : Dissemination Day session

(*) During the event is been presented Blueslinsk projects, are been realized some connections with motonave BellaRimini in which the Hackathon was on going and in the afternoon was been held the Young area and the award ceremony of Hackathon









In the **ANNEX III**

- Presentation power point by schools participants
- Webpage of ecomondo dedicated to event [Blue Skills & Jobs: new professional profiles and new skills for sustainable blue growth.](#)

