

UNFCCC COP 27
Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

Promoting green & blue growth innovation in the Mediterranean: adopting circular economy strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation

By Interreg MED Green & Blue Growth Communities

17 November 2022

15:00 – 16:00

Speakers



Maria Cuffaro
RAI

She is currently journalist, editor in chief and anchorwoman at TG3Mondo. Since 1991 she has worked with Michele Santoro (Il Rosso e il Nero, Temporeale). In 1996 she conducted a Channel Four broadcast about Italy. In 1997 she wrote a series of documentaries for Rai 2 (Speciale 24ore). In 1999 she wrote several documentaries for C'era una volta, Rai3. For Tg3 she was sent to Afghanistan and documented many international crises. In 2007 she was awarded the "Maria Grazia Cutuli journalistic prize".



Alessandra Sensi
UfM

Head of Sector, Environment and Blue Economy, at WEBE – the Water, Environment and Blue Economy Division Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). Alessandra Sensi has a University Degree in Political Science, Economic Branch, and a Master's degree in Management and Economics of Energy and Environment. She is Head of Sector for Environment and Blue Economy at WEBE – the Water, Environment and Blue Economy Division of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean since March 2013. She was Programme Manager of the Environment/Green and Blue Economy/Climate Change portfolio at the European Commission, EuropeAid, between 2009 and 2012. Previously, she worked for FAO, Rome; for UNEP/GEF in Nairobi and Geneva; for the Development Cooperation Office of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hanoi, Vietnam; and for Eurostat - the Statistical Office of the EU, Luxembourg.



Matteo Bocci
WESTMED

Matteo has been working in support of a sustainable blue economy across the EU since the Blue Growth Study developed for DG Mare in 2012. He has worked on several research and capacity-building assignments in support of a sustainable blue economy, across various EU sea-basins (Mediterranean, Black Sea, Baltic) and is expert in supporting sustainable development projects towards access to public grants and private investments. Matteo direct expertise in this field includes “blue” innovation, research, cluster analysis and support, tourism and sustainable cruising/yachting, green shipping and shipbuilding value chains, sustainable aquaculture, marine renewable energy, as well as sea basin strategy, public/private financing support, enabling policy frameworks. Matteo holds a Dual Degree Masters in Public Affairs and Administration (MPA) at the London School of Economics (LSE) and Sciences Po Paris, with a final dissertation on sustainable local development.



Sergio Ponsà
BETA Tech Center

Sergio is a Chemical Engineer and PhD in Environmental Sciences and Technologies.

Since 2014, Sergio is the Director of the BETA Tech. Center, a leading Center in the field of sustainable development and sustainable agri-food production systems that is composed by a team of more than 80 renown researchers. Sergio is currently participating in more than 20 international projects and initiatives integrating environmental, economic, and social sustainability principles, with a special focus on rural societies. He is member of several regional and international associations and advisory boards, and he is strongly supporting policy makers from regional to international spheres. Since 2016, BETA is coordinating the Interreg MED Green Growth Community, that was labelled by Union for the Mediterranean in October 2019 and will continue leading the new Thematic Community in Mission 1 – Strengthening an innovative sustainable economy of the new Interreg Euro-MED Program for the next 7 years.”

Spyros Kouvelis
EPLO

Director, EPLO Institute for Sustainable Development/Senior Associate of the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership/former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs/former MP.

Spyros Kouvelis is a renowned expert in the sustainability and blue economy fronts. His career spans over 30 years in sustainable development and many entities, including UNEP, WWF, the Ramsar Convention, and EPLO. During his tenures as MP at the Hellenic Parliament and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, he was a strong advocate for environmental protection and building robust governance systems. As Senior Associate of the University of Cambridge CISL and Director of the EPLO Institute for Sustainable Development, he has been promoting ESG integration and compliance, and building Verimpact, a verifiable ESG decision-making system. Recently selected as an EU Mission Board member for the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission. Spyros holds an MSc in agricultural/ environmental economics from the University of Reading, UK, and a BSc in economics from the University of Athens. He is fluent in Greek, English and French and speaks some Italian and Spanish.



Caterina Praticò
CONISMA

Praticò specialized in business management in Milan before getting a PhD in urban planning with a research focus on social boundaries in the urban contexts. During her professional experience she has refined skills on management of specific interventions on the following themes: Sustainable development, Blue growth, Blue energy, Urban infrastructures, Local development, Innovative urban services, Rural development, Creative enterprises, Innovative crafts, Economy of knowledge, Sharing and collaborative economy, Security and legality.

She has also set up and coordinated inter-institutional and multilevel partnerships for the implementation of complex projects of local development and European cooperation projects. She worked as a manager (or as a consultant) for public institutions like ministries, regions, municipalities, provinces; with territorial stakeholders as chambers of commerce, associations of category etc. and with research institutions such as the national research council, universities, and consortiums.



Patricia Carbonell
REVOLVE

Project Manager / Head of Barcelona office, REVOLVE

Patricia is a communication professional with a Master's degree in Media, Communication, and Critical Practice from the University of the Arts (London College of Communication) and a BA in Audio-Visual Communications from the University of Valencia. For the past 10 years, Patricia has been managing communications across Africa, the Middle East, and the EU focusing on innovation and sustainability. She has vast experience creating public awareness campaigns, training, producing industry events, curating art exhibitions, managing media relations, and leading EU-funded research and innovation projects. This background enables her to have a strategic vision to build meaningful relationships and implement creative campaigns with great stakeholder engagement. She currently leads the REVOLVE team in Barcelona and grows a community of journalists and researchers to improve environmental reporting and communication skills around de Mediterranean region.