

## CONCEPT NOTE

### ONLINE TRAINING: Workshop on blue jobs and cross-cutting skills for young professionals and graduates of the Med Countries

14 - 15 April 2021

The importance of the marine and maritime industries will continue to grow in the Mediterranean region: the “Blue Economy” sector is an engine of human and economic development for the entire region. Taking fully advantage of this sector’s potential will require a multi-skilled workforce from a wide variety of marine and maritime professional backgrounds, and areas such as marine biotechnology and marine renewable energy will also necessitate new knowledge, skills, and innovation. In order to achieve this goal, higher education has to innovate and gain in relevance and quality.

The last [UfM Ministerial declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy \(2 February 2021\)](#), while showing concern “about the mismatch between the skills of the labour force and the evolving needs of the industry, as well as a shortage of attractive jobs in the sector”, reaffirmed “the need to prioritize education, vocational training and scientific capacity, including technology transfer, to anticipate transformative technological trends and promote just transitions”, as well as “the importance of working closely with the private sector to promote innovation and identify and address skills gaps”. This interest for the potential of the marine and maritime sectors as sources of growth and employment was also stressed on the Valletta Declaration on Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through Research and Innovation (2017) and the Ministerial Declaration on Employment and Labour (2019).

For this workshop, two successful [UfM-labelled projects](#) join forces to contribute to address skills gaps and to train future agents of “blue growth” in the Mediterranean: [BlueSkills](#), promoted by OGS, and [HOMERe](#). While BlueSkills creates opportunities for marine and maritime careers by developing skills, exchanging knowledge and valorising research, HOMERe fosters internship mobility between Mediterranean countries. While BlueSkills develops new curricula and increases employability in the marine and maritime sectors, offering a Master Programme, a Summer School, and multilateral scholarships for researchers, HOMERe targets high-profile students in their last year of study, knowing that in a region where youth unemployment often increases with the level of education, internships facilitate the transition from their academic environment to qualified roles in their own countries.

Currently, we find a variety of support tools and programmes tackling skills development, which need to be mapped and rationalized to avoid duplication and loss of efficiency. An effort has been made in this sense with the publication by the UfM of a handbook for academia, industry and policymakers on “Reinforcing the Innovation-Employability Nexus in the Mediterranean”.

Blue Skills required in the future are diverse: soft, technical, digital, social media, environmental, security, entrepreneurial, socio-economic, multi-disciplinary, languages, statistics, law, maritime spatial planning. This programme will be useful for students and young graduates from a wide range of academic backgrounds, and will cover topics relevant for a diversity of sectors and careers:

- Business and incubators
- Smart Specialization Strategies
- Technological innovation for sustainable blue growth
- Talent circulation and Partnership Building
- Best/ Good Practices

Target: Alumni OGS - HOMERe - young professionals and researchers; post graduates in the field of marine sciences and maritime sectors (blue growth/ blue economy related).

## AGENDA

**Language:** Simultaneous interpretation in English and French

**Online platform:** Zoom (coordinated by UfM)

### DAY 1 14.04.2021

10:00 – 10:30 Welcome and Opening Session

- Itaf Ben Abdallah, Higher Education and Research, UfM
- Léo Vincent, HOMERe
- Mounir Ghribi, BlueSkills - OGS

10:30 – 12:00 TOPIC 1 | Business and Incubators

- Mohammed Elrazzaz, Economic Development and Employment, [UfM](#)
  - Salvatore Dore, University of Trieste, [ContaminationLab](#)
  - André Durbec, Conseiller du Commerce Extérieur de la France - [CCEF](#)
- Moderator: Léo Vincent, HOMERe

12:00 – 13:00 TOPIC 2 | SSS: Smart Specialization Strategies

- Anders Olsson, Academy for Smart Specialisation in Karlstad - [KAU](#)
  - Viezzoli Annalisa, Servizio ricerca, apprendimento permanente e Fondo Sociale Europeo, Italy - [Region FVG](#)
  - Leonardo Manzari, Senior Economist, WestMed - [WestMed Initiative](#) - *tbc*
- Moderator: Mohammed Elrazzaz, UfM

14:00 – 15:30 TOPIC 3 | Technological Innovation for Sustainable Blue Growth

- Walter Goruppi, Analyst and LP, [BLUEKEP](#) - Informest
  - Martina Rossi, Cluster Manager, [MAREFVG](#) - Maritime Cluster
  - Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, Athens University of Economics and Business, President Elect [EAERE](#), co-chair [UN SDSN EUROPE](#)
  - Nicolaos Theodossiou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki - [AUTH](#)
- Moderator: Mounir Ghribi, OGS

15:30 – 17:00 TOPIC 4 | Talent Circulation and Partnership Building

- Alessandra Sensi, Environment and Blue Economy, UfM
  - Jerneja Penca, Head of academic affairs, [Euro-Mediterranean University - EMUNI](#)
  - Olivier Boiron, HOMERe/ [RMEI - Réseau méditerranéen des écoles d'ingénieurs](#)
- Moderator: Mounir Ghribi, OGS

### DAY 2 15.04.2021

10:00 – 12:30 TOPIC 5 | Best and Good Practices

- Mounir Ghribi, [BLUESKILLS - OGS](#) (Capacity building)
  - Alain Meyssonier, HOMERe/ [IME - Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau](#) (Mobility)
  - Prof. Cristina Fossi, [PLASTIC-BUSTERS](#) (Marine litter solutions)
  - Béchir Béjaoui / Roberto Montanari, [Co-Evolve4BG](#) (Maritime spatial planning)
- Moderator: João Lobo, UfM

12:30 – 13:00 Evaluation and Closing session

- Itaf Ben Abdallah, UfM HER
- Léo Vincent, HOMERe
- Mounir Ghribi, BlueSkills - OGS