EU’s priorities, perspectives and upcoming funding on skills - & other funding opportunities

CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Maritime WG

Meeting – 8th December 2022

Andy Kontoudakis- EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG MARE - A1
TODAY:

• European Year of Skills 2023

• Blue Careers – new Call

• Other current funding
TODAY:

• European Year of Skills 2023
European Year of Skills 2023!

- Announcement of President von der Leyen in her State of the European Union Address
- Commission proposal to designate 2023 as the European Year of Skills.
- A year dedicated to skills policies and initiatives, with initiatives labelled as actions under the Year of Skills
- European Year of Skills will bring multiple opportunities to showcase results of skills initiatives across sectors

RRF & Recovery and Resilience Plans → skills provisions under specific pillar
TODAY:

• Blue Careers – new Call
EMFAF 2022
CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

Blue careers for a sustainable blue economy

€ 7.5 MILLION

DEADLINE: 31 January 2023
3rd Edition of Blue Careers Call for Proposals

Why: constant need to tackle skills and career development in the blue economy – now: digital and green twin transition

Recovery and Resilience effort: accent on skills development

Revamped Blue Economy – additional focus

Commission proposal to designate 2023 as the European Year of Skills – input from the

Past experience: many sectors, different requirements → tailored skills enhancement solutions – no ‘blanket’ responses; seed funding for piloting projects can be carried forward and scaled up beyond grant financing.
Challenges in the Blue Careers (BC):

• Lack of digital, green, soft, transversal, inter-/multi-disciplinary, managerial, entrepreneurial project management and other SOFT skills of graduates at both higher education and VET levels;

• Lack of structured, continued collaboration between industry and educational/ VET institutions; alignment with ongoing technological developments in the sector

• Lack of “skills ecosystems” at sea basin level;

• Lack of mutually recognized training certifications and qualification recognition processes.
Blue Careers - PROJECTS’ FEEDBACK

TRAININGS
50% of training developed continues in some form

ON-LINE LEARNING
Growth, scaling up → hybrid approaches now by institutions

TRANSFERABLE MODULES
material developed embedded in other courses

FORMAL RECOGNITION BARRIERS
Different qualifications recognition requirements across MSs

LEGACY-BUSINESS PLAN
Project as an one-off /no plans to commercialise

SYNERGIES
Commonalities ↑
limited co-operation between projects ↓
SKILLS - Careers: Future Call

Blue Careers – 3rd edition of skills-dedicated Call under EMFAF in 2022, to tackle skills and career development in the blue economy

TACKLE: PRIORITIES

- Methods/approaches
- Material and content
- Collaboration frameworks
- Resources and physical capital

Activities/ solutions

- Facilitating/improving training certifications, skills and qualifications recognition processes
- Re-orient blue economy operators, retrain, reskill
- Innovative training modules/hands-on & practical experience
- Operational links between academia and industry

Challenges!!

- Lack of advanced technical, digital, green, interdisciplinary, sustainability, soft skills…
- Lack of coherent and mutually recognised training certifications and skills and qualifications recognition processes
- Lack of “skills ecosystems” at sea basin level bringing together education, industry and public authorities (knowledge triangle)
- Lack of structured, continued collaboration between industry and educational/VET institutions → promote curricula, training programmes adapted to gaps, aligned with ongoing technological developments
OBJECTIVES

• Promotion of green and digital blue skills, professions and careers
  - acquisition of transversal and inter/multidisciplinary skills and competences
  - further boosting the digitalisation and greening of jobs

• Reskilling and upskilling schemes & cooperation between education and industry
  - support active labour force acquire necessary environmental and sustainability skills
  - acquaintance with modern standards, principles and practices

• Blue careers awareness & attractiveness for students and young professionals
  - attract and retain new talent
  - counter human capital depletion due to aging labour force
THEMES AND PRIORITIES (SCOPE)

1. **Develop innovative educational material**, skills development modules, content, learning outcomes and curriculum, such as micro-credentials

2. **Develop and pilot innovative teaching** and **training** approaches – wide spectrum of blue economy sectors

3. **Establish and maintain structured collaboration frameworks** between blue industries/sectors and education/VET providers – adapt to tech development, proposing practical placements, on the job training, apprenticeships, shadowing, mentoring...

4. **Pool and share of resources** – platforms, tools, content, mobility...

5. **Propose, test and pilot mutual recognition schemes**
ACTIVITIES - SOLUTIONS

- Innovative training modules
- Combination of training means for skills development, at various levels
- Operational links between academia and industry, practical placements
- Pooling and sharing of resources for continuous cooperation
- New sustainable and circular approaches in the blue economy, orient & attract into new activities
- Talent retention and mobility
- Awareness raising campaigns to up-/re-skill
EXPECTED IMPACTS

New educational content and methodologies

Set up ‘training-of-trainers’ schemes

Increase awareness, visibility and attractiveness

Improve employability/adaptability of students

Provide hands-on experience and learning

Set up re-/up-skilling schemes, career guidance

Project results
ATTENTION TO:

- Clearly indicate in the proposal chosen theme(s) / priority
- Design of proposed actions WITH Industry representatives.
- Develop regional partnerships – consider skill needs of sea basins
- Develop inter-/multi-disciplinary approaches, tackle a variety of blue economy sectors, to the extent possible
- Consider relevant other initiatives, policies and BE specific strategies
- Ensure complementarity and synergy with relevant/previous projects – ensure legacy
- Partners across different sea basins and notably, as far as relevant, from Outermost Regions (ORs)
Who can apply
• Consortium of at least 3 applicants from 2 different countries

How much can you get?
• Co-funding rate 80%.
• Between €800,000 – €1,200,000

What are we looking for?
• Innovative cooperation projects, bringing together
  • an industry representative body
  • an educational/training organisation
EMFAF 2022 INFO DAY

Blue careers and Regional flagships Calls for Proposals

24 NOVEMBER 2022 | 10:00-17:00 CET

CENTRE BORSCHETTE, BRUSSELS

Registration for the Info Day is online!
TODAY:

• Other current funding opportunities

EMFAF 2022
EMFAF 2022
CALLS FOR PROPOSALS
Regional flagships projects in EU Sea basins
€ 7.6 MILLION
DEADLINE: 31 January 2023
INTRODUCING REGIONAL FLAGSHIPS:

- FLAGSHIP-1-ATLANTIC
  Diversification of fisheries activities in the Atlantic area

- FLAGSHIP-2-BLACK SEA
  Harnessing preparedness and response to marine pollution in the Black Sea

- FLAGSHIP-3-MED
  Sustainable transport and ports in the Mediterranean

- FLAGSHIP-4-MED
  Maritime clusters as an innovative enabler for a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean

- FLAGSHIP-5-OR
  Sustainable maritime and coastal tourism in the Outermost Regions

- FLAGSHIP-6-BALTIC
  Regenerative ocean farming in the Baltic Sea Region
WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR:

- TOPICAL RESPONSES TO SPECIFIC NEEDS
- TAILOR MADE SOLUTIONS

- 1-2 main themes for each sea basin
- Promotion of regenerative ocean farming in the Baltic Sea area (skills and training for regenerative ocean farming, permitting and authorisation processes, demonstration)

- Overall budget: EUR 7.6 mio EUR, split per Topic, between 0.6 – 2.4 mio EUR each
OBJECTIVES

Reorienting fishers from extraction to ocean regeneration activities (assess the interest and feasibility to set up new regenerative ocean farms or restore coastal marine ecosystems).

SCOPE

- Knowledge creation and sharing, and identification of skills and training for regenerative ocean farming;
- Access to space and water, (marine protected areas);
- Permitting and authorisation processes (installation of regenerative ocean farms);
- Demonstration activities for setting and operating regenerative ocean farming.

EXPECTED IMPACTS

- Elaboration of good practice for permitting procedures;
- Increased awareness of regenerative ocean farming;
- Proven technical feasibility of regenerative ocean farming (linked to MPAs);
- Economic and environmental benefits quantification of regenerative ocean farming (market potential and job opportunities/ ecosystems and restoring).
EMFAF Regional Flagships Summary

- Overall budget: EUR 7,600,000
- Atlantic (Topic 1): EUR 2,000,000
- Black Sea (Topic 2): EUR 600,000
- Mediterranean (Topic 3): EUR 2,400,000
- Mediterranean (Topic 4): EUR 1,000,000
- Outermost Reg. (Topic 5): EUR 1,000,000
- Baltic Sea (Topic 6): EUR 600,000

DETAILS
- Cofunding rate: 80 to 85% (topic 5 only)
- How many projects to be funded: 9 to 12
- Budget per project: Btw EUR 400,000 and EUR 1,000,000
- Duration: Btw 12 and 36 months
**INDICATIVE TIMELINE**

- **31/01/2023 Submission Deadline**
- **February – April 2023: Evaluation**
- **April-May 2023: Evaluation committee agree final ranking list**
- **May 2023: Information on evaluation results**
- **September/October 2023: Grant Agreement signature**
Thank you