



# ADRION THEMATIC CLUSTER ON BLUE GROWTH AND RELATED SMART GROWTH

**BLUE\_BOOST and OIS\_AIR PROJECTS**

**INTERREG ADRION**



**BLUE\_BOOST**



**OIS-AIR**



**NEWSLETTER #4**

**September 2020**

## **Message from Thematic Cluster Coordinator Prof. Nikitas Nikitakos, University of the Aegean (Greece)**

Welcome to the ADRION Thematic Cluster (TC) on Blue Growth and related Smart Growth. The 1st TC consists of 10 relevant projects funded under Ionian Adrion framework with the ultimate goal to promote cooperation, and to identify common synergies and new ideas for the next EU programming period. One newsletter will be available for downloading each month in the **TC section** prepared by two projects each time of the TC, with informative articles about Cluster's objectives, as well as updates on programs, contests, conferences, activities, and other-related news.

This is our fourth Newsletter, and we are very excited to share with you the latest news of BLUE\_BOOST and OIS\_AIR projects. In this issue you can get to know the two projects, their innovation voucher schemes and their main results, find out about their forthcoming final events and explore their contribution to Blue Growth in the macro-region.

Any feedback is welcome and could be send in my personale-mail or through the projects participating in Cluster. Enjoy your reading, stay tuned and explore more news in the upcoming newsletters and reports.

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## BLUE\_BOOST at a glance

**BOOSTING the innovation potential of the triple helix of Adriatic-Ionian traditional and emerging BLUE growth sectors clusters through an open source/knowledge sharing and community based approach.**








Maritime clusters within ADRION regions are characterized by a high heterogeneity of activities, a tangible interaction gap between their respective four helixes and a poor attitude to inter-clustering, especially at a trans-sectoral level. The BLUE\_BOOST project aims at unlocking and boosting the potential of knowledge/technology transfer, transnational and cross-sectoral cooperation of key innovation actors of traditional (primarily fisheries and ship-building) and emerging (primarily Blue technologies-including aquaculture- green shipbuilding, robotics and new materials) Blue Growth sectors by reinforcing the relationships and interactions within and among their clusters according to an open source, knowledge sharing & community based approach.



**Download brochure:** [ALB](#) [HR](#) [GR](#) [ENG](#) [ITA](#)

### BLUE\_BOOST INNOVATION VOUCHER SCHEME

Innovation Voucher scheme – Thanks to BLUE\_BOOST innovation vouchers, 35 awarded ADRION blue growth companies could actually implement an innovation process and thus improve their long term business perspective. Each awarded MSMEs is briefly and attractively presented in these BLUE\_BOOST Voucher Posters divided per pilot Partner regions (look below).

-  [Zadar County winners](#)
-  [Marche Region winners](#)
-  [Central Macedonia winners](#)
-  [Friuli Venezia Giulia winners](#)
-  [Albania winners](#)
-  [Western Greece winners](#)
-  [Apulia Region winners](#)

BLUE\_BOOST has:

-Encompassed Blue Labs, Workshops and Hackathons as innovative and interactive coaching tools, where companies have developed their own innovation project under the expert stimulation and guidance of blue growth and/or ‘new innovation’ experts.

-Provided €350.000 to 35 small-scale projects under the Blue Innovation Voucher Scheme, thus funding the implementation of innovation projects developed by companies.

-Drawn a transnational database of Knowledge Providers, i.e. blue growth experts and ‘new innovation agents’ aimed at promoting expertise and innovation coaching services in a transnational context.

-BLUE\_BOOST is actively engaged to endorse a Transnational Innovation Networking Strategy and Joint Action Plan for the long-term capitalization of project findings for maritime clusters in the involved 7 Adriatic-Ionian regions and beyond.

### Final project results to be transformed in policy

- Increased awareness and understanding among the business community about the competitive advantage of the Blue Growth and its potential market opportunities;
- Enhancement of the strategic competencies/skills of blue MSMEs, that are needed to increase the value of their own products/services or address new markets, by cross-sectoral and cross-boundary fertilizations as well as by the close collaboration with research and innovation agents;
- Preparation of a favorable environment for the establishment of transnational clusters on promising blue economy's sectors through the adoption of open source, knowledge sharing & community based approaches.

### Policy Recommendations

- Paving the ground for know-how transferring within and towards the business community by enhancing a regional and transnational innovation environment
- Supporting innovation within Blue Economy and Blue Growth sectors through the set-up of targeted investment and funding programs
- Scaling up innovation processes at transnational level by enforcing multistakeholders' networks

## BLUE BOOST RESULTS

### INVOLVED

**1056** Local STAKEHOLDERS

**104** KNOWLEDGE Providers

**17** Local INNOVATION EXPERTS

**58** Applications for INNOVATION VOUCHERS

**35** INNOVATION PROJECTS funded



### 24 BLUE SCENARIO WORKSHOPS

Involved 99 companies, 40 experts Included 10 B2B meetings

### 7 BLUE HACKATHONS

Involved 49 companies, 80 experts Included 21 B2B meetings

### 1 BROKERAGE EVENT

Involved 19 companies, 25 experts Included 40 B2B meetings



### 21 BLUE LABS

Involved 134 companies and 26 experts

### 6 CROSS-FIELD VISITS

Involved 52 companies and 37 experts



**More information:**

[BLUE BOOST Webpage](#)

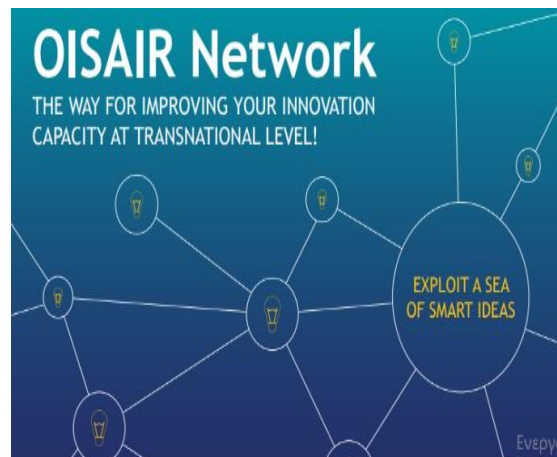
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## OIS-AIR at a glance

### Establishment of the Open Innovation System of the Adriatic-Ionian Region

The OIS-AIR project pursues the final goal of establishment the Open Innovation System of Adriatic-Ionian Region (OIS-AIR), a single market place for technology and innovation competitive and attractive at macro-regional level. OIS-AIR intends to strengthen the development of industrial and entrepreneurial activities within a virtuous circle involving relevant stakeholders from different sectors in Adriatic-Ionian Region, from research institutions to SMEs and public administration.



The project established the OIS-AIR Network composed currently by 7 Innovation Centers located in six countries: Italy (2 centers), Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Greece and Albania and its supported by the OIS-AIR INNOVAIR Platform, a virtual innovation marketplace aimed at improving the innovation capacity that offers free-of-charge innovation services to businesses and promotes the establishment of R2B collaborations.



The transnational OISAIR Network is based on a Hub&Spoke approach integrating two operational levels: local & transnational. Locally established Innovation Centers (Spokes) scout research results, gather SMEs needs and promote innovation opportunities. At transnational level the Hub (AREA Science Park), coordinates their activities and acts as gate matching demand & offer of services & research results, offering networked specialized services & infrastructures.

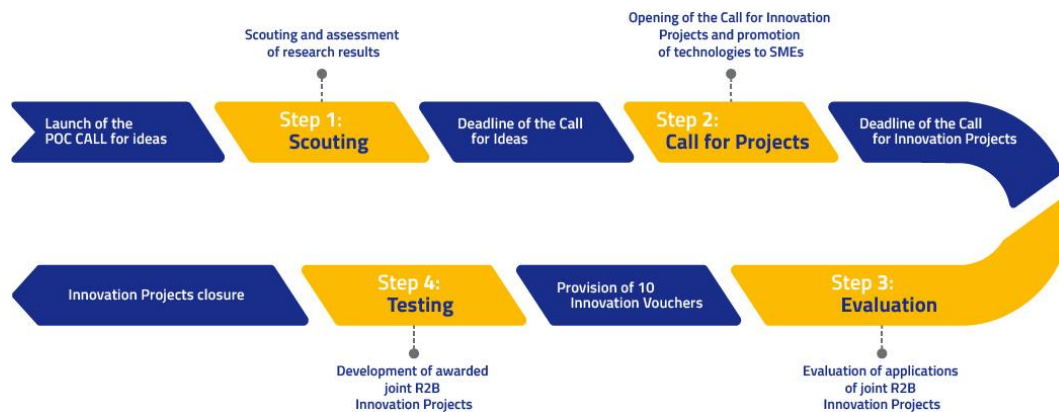
The INNOVAIR platform boosts innovation in 3 emerging sectors: Transport & Mobility, Energy & Environment, Agro-Bioeconomy, which have been identified through a Pilot Macro-regional Adriatic-Ionian RIS3 analysis that pointed out the main technology priority areas (TPAs) essential to valorize the transregional innovation potential.

The Network supported the enhancement of cooperation among research infrastructures and businesses and boosted the economic growth and competitiveness in the Adriatic Ionian Region providing financing support to the best innovative projects to be jointly developed by research institutes and SMEs in Adriatic Ionian Region.



## OIS-AIR INNOVATION VOUCHER SCHEME

**Innovation Voucher scheme** – Under the OIS-AIR Proof of Concept Call, 10 innovative projects developed jointly by research institutes and SMEs in the field of Transport & Mobility, Energy & Environment, Agro-Bioeconomy, were selected to be funded with 18.500 EUR vouchers.



Opened in April 2019, the PoC Call pushed research based innovation in SMEs, supporting early stage technologies and patents (TRL 3-5) developed in universities and research institutes to be transformed into commercial applications through the co-development of prototypes/testing with established SMEs.

Around **100 research results** were collected from research institutions of the whole area, while **65 projects proposals were applied** to get financial support for their experimental activities.

Confirming the international scope of the initiative, five out of ten awarded projects were submitted by transnational partners.

 [List of 10 winning projects](#)

### Benefits for SMEs:

- Discovering a great deal of transnational scientific research results assessed with regards to their industrial potential
- Cutting costs and times for industrial innovation
- Establishing stable collaborations with local and transregional research institutions
- Searching for open research results and participate to their co-development

### Benefits for universities and research institutions:

- Improving the visibility of their research results and promoting them transnationally
- Getting a technological and commercial evaluation of the research results
- Having access to co-funding for industrial valorization
- Improving the commercial valorization of public research results

## OIS-AIR main results

By promoting transnational cooperation, OIS-AIR unlocked the innovation potential establishing durable links and synergies between enterprises, R&D centers and research infrastructures in Adriatic-Ionian Region with several key benefits for the whole Adriatic Ionian innovation ecosystem:

- Set up of the OIS-AIR Network and Innovair Platform: [www.oisair.net](http://www.oisair.net)
- Definition of the first Pilot Macro Regional S3 for Adriatic Ionian Region
- Action plan for Macro Regional S3
- Local Innovation centres established
- Open innovation workshops and workshops with stakeholders organized
- Organization of a transnational Proof of Concept Call (POC Call) and provision of 10 innovation vouchers
- Delivery of over 150 free-of-charge innovation services to businesses



**6** countries  
**7** innovation centres



**10** innovation vouchers delivered:  
**6** agro-bioeconomy  
**3** energy & environment  
**1** transport & mobility



**100+** research results were collected for PoC Call and **65** projects proposals were applied



**30+** events and workshops organized  
**150+** free-of-charge innovation services to businesses  
**4500+** stakeholders involved:  
**500+** SMEs **3800+** researchers **100+** BS0s  
**100+** national and regional authority

### More information:

[OIS-AIR website](#)  
[INNOVAIR Platform](#)

### Project contact:

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### SAVE THE DATE - JOIN FINAL CONFERENCES

Final conferences for both projects: **Blue Boost** and **OIS-AIR** will be held this November!

- ✚ OIS-AIR final event **26<sup>th</sup> of November**
- ✚ Blue Bust final event “Blue Innovation Fair” **27<sup>th</sup> of November**

Stay tuned, join us and explore innovation opportunities!

### **NEXT STEPS of THEMATIC CLUSTER**

Stay tuned for even more reading content, exploring the next monthly newsletter by PoWER and SEADRION projects, the joint policy paper with scientific recommendations and the report on new areas/fields of intervention/project ideas developed by the TC in order to be financed in the next programming period.



## **Visit us**



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**For more information about the ADRION Thematic Cluster on Blue Growth and Related Smart Growth visit the [Cluster Webpage](#)**

