

# Mistral Project's News

*A project co-financed by the European Development Fund*

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## What about the MISTRAL events?

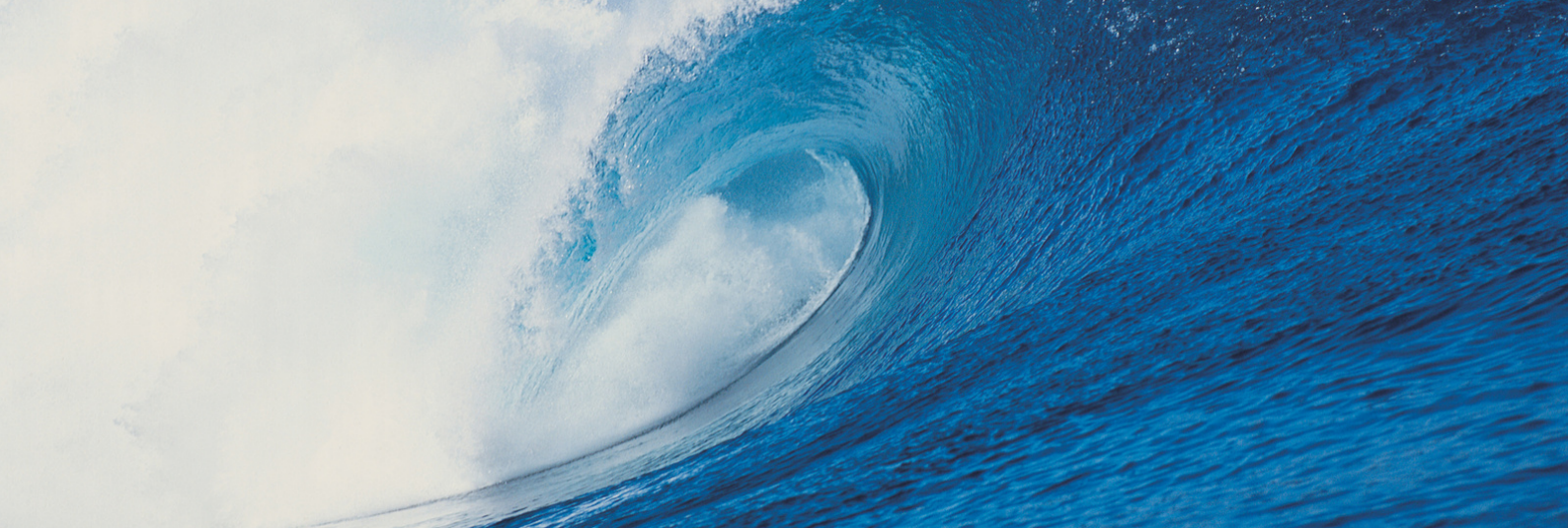
A presentation of completed and upcoming events.

This is the third newsletter issue of the MISTRAL project which aims to provide more information to MISTRAL fans regarding the already implemented digital events of the project as well as the upcoming events. The project partners of MISTRAL collaborated to develop the content of this newsletter so as to the general public easily understand how MISTRAL supports and enhances the Blue Growth sector in Mediterranean developing digital activities that each interested party can attend.

In the following pages, you will find detailed information about the events implemented the period between October 2020 - April 2021.

*Enjoy the reading!*





# Introduction

## A resume of the MISTRAL activities of this period

Another important step has been achieved: MISTRAL has developed Guidelines and Toolkits to implement Business Plan competitions and Matchmaking events that have characterized 2020 actions. Despite the COVID19 situation, MISTRAL has carried out successful activities at Regional, National and International level, by testing in different areas Business Plan competitions and matchmaking events to support the Innovation of Clusters and companies and thanks to the tools developed, these activities will be completely transferable also in other MED territories. The Project Partners met online in October and December 2020 and a new phase has been launched: the "Transferring phase" together with the "Capitalisation phase" are now planned and National and International Learning Labs/Camps have just started.

By focusing on different topics and sectors of the Blue Economy, the MISTRAL National and International Learning Labs/Camps will animate discussions about Blue Economy sectors, the potentials they have in terms of innovation and business opportunities and exploitation, starting from scientific and in-depth analysis carried out in previous years. The main objective of the Labs /Camps will be to transfer the tested tools developed as well as to further enrich and wide knowledge & data of the 5 Blue subsectors of the Blue Economy. A calendar has been agreed and it is available on MISTRAL website. Stay tuned and join!





# Past events



“The Blue Growth Elevator Pitch Competition took place remotely on the 22nd October 2020 from 9am to 6pm. The event, organised by Pôle Mer Méditerranée, gathered around 80 Mediterranean stakeholders of several Blue Growth sectors: maritime and coastal tourism, blue technologies, maritime surveillance, fisheries and aquaculture. 14 projects have been presented as part of the Elevator pitch competition. The project holders answered the questions of a multinational judging panel, chaired by Mr Roberto Cimino, president of the Blue Growth Italian technology cluster. This pitching session was completed by two external presentations. Mrs Daniela Cedola highlighted the opportunities offered by the Blue Invest Platform. Mr Xavier Guillou, from the DG MARE presented an overview of the blue growth domains. Several prizes were awarded:

- Grand Prix : Frank Neumann with Subtrophix
- Innovation Prize : Jorge Gutiérrez Martínez with ECONcrete
- Eloquence : Ana Portada with Oceanario XR & Alessio Adamiano with Recover Ingredients Audience Choice Award : Max Rota with Natural Art Reef & Paolo Diviacco with MaDCrow

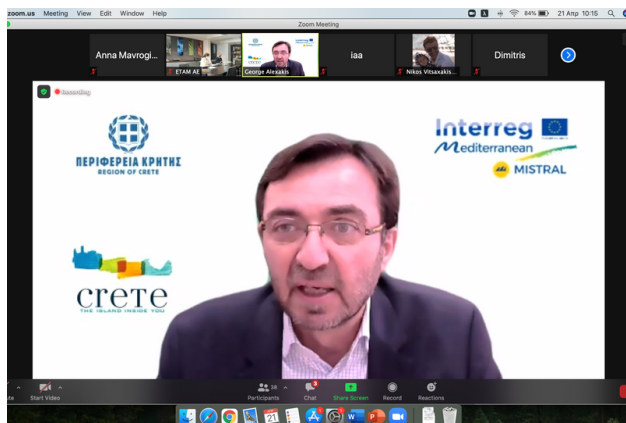
The event has been a great success and allowed blue growth stakeholders to exchange thanks to online B2B meetings.



The Maritime Cluster of the Balearic Islands organized the local learning camp on April 14. The agenda of innovation, entrepreneurship and new challenges for the recovery and growth of the blue economy sectors began with the presentation and welcome of the president of the cluster, Ms. Iolanda Piedra, as well as a brief introduction by Mr. José María Solano, from the Ministry of Fisheries, followed by the inauguration by Mr. Francesc Mateu Aguiló, managing director of the Tourism Strategy Agency of the Balearic Islands. Under the title, MISTRAL, a wind of change in the Blue Economy, the Mistral Project, the partners, the Blue Growth book, Business Plan Tools and Matchmaking, and the winning projects were presented. Then, and already in the middle of the seminar theme, Reinventing the blue economy, a presentation and discussion was held on the specific subsectors, represented by the different specialists in Coastal and Maritime Tourism, Maritime Surveillance, Nautical, Fisheries and Aquaculture and Biotechnology. Once the different sectors were exposed, a debate was held and key proposals for the growth of the blue economy sectors were discussed. Finally, the closing took place by the Minister of Tourism of the Consell de Mallorca, Mr. Andreu Serra.

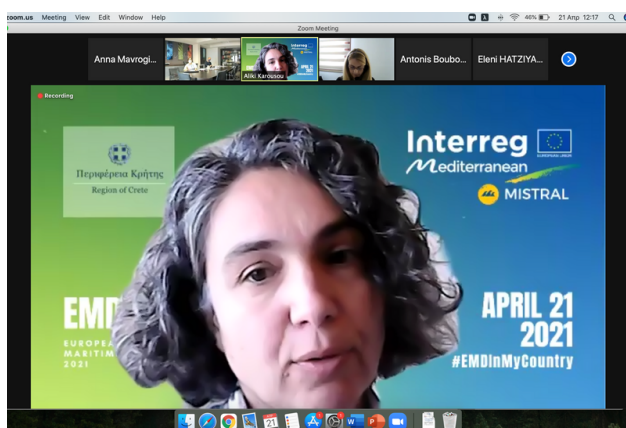


# Past events



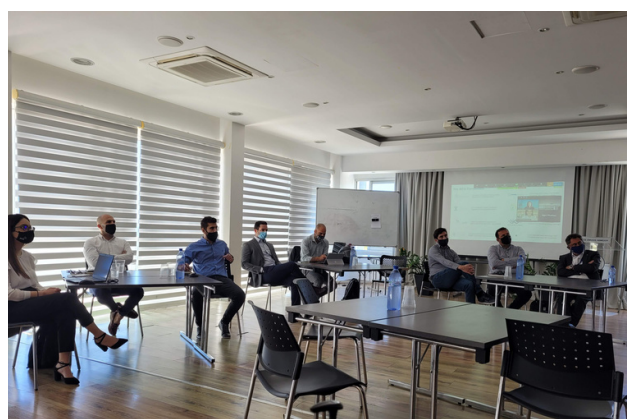
The Region of Crete in cooperation with HCMR co-organized a Learning Camp in the context of MISTRAL Project, on Wednesday 21st of April 2021, via zoom platform. The Learning Camp was entitled “Business opportunities on Blue Growth: networking and synergies of local enterprises. Blue Growth in the context of Smart Specialization Strategy RIS3” and was consisted of four thematic topics.

The 1st Topic was related to the Project and its actions, the 2nd was about Entrepreneurship on Blue Growth, networking and financial opportunities, the 3rd was about the Smart Specialization Strategy in the Region of Crete and the new programming period, while the 4th was dedicated to enterprises active in Blue Growth (Networking workshop in the thematic field of Blue Growth). During the Camp, several presentations regarding the Project itself, other Projects, good practices of enterprises in the Blue Growth Sector, funding opportunities and proposals related to the Smart Specializations Strategy in the context of the new programming period were made. In total, it was attended by 66 participants who came from Regional authorities, Institutes, public bodies, enterprises, etc.



MISTRAL presented at Maritime Stakeholders’ Event in Cyprus. On April 22nd Chrysalis LEAP, the Project Partner from Cyprus, presented MISTRAL in Limassol Cyprus, in an event held to introduce the new Global EIT Climate-KIC Maritime ClimAccelerator in Cyprus. During the event the Blue Growth Book was introduced to the participants along with all the activities and outputs delivered during the project so far.

The Maritime ClimAccelerator, supported by EIT Climate-KIC, will offer participating start-ups training, guidance and theme-specific mentoring (both virtually and in-person) and access to funding. The Maritime ClimAccelerator will thus provide start-ups with a unique opportunity to ideate, pilot, test and demonstrate their proposed solutions aiming to develop these into global, sustainable businesses.

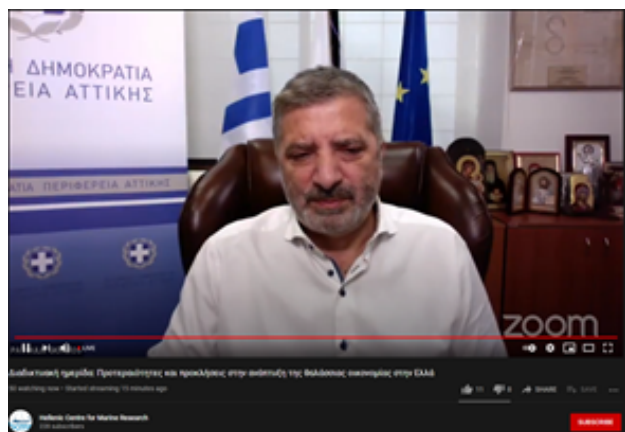




# Past events



For the case of Greece, the last period was dedicated to actions and tools that stimulate entrepreneurship and innovation in the blue economy of Mediterranean. The Blue Prototype initiative was successfully completed in October 2020, which was a pilot action in the framework of MISTRAL for discovering and accelerating innovative business proposals in the national blue economy. Seven innovative business ideas and companies "graduated" from the Blue Prototype, after many months of evaluation, group and individual support, which largely coincided with the limitations of the coronavirus crisis and evolved mainly online. Taking into consideration that the participants live in different regions of Greece, online meetings provided an opportunity to develop a more intense and collaborative action plan, adding value to the outcomes of this pilot action. All beneficiaries of the Blue Prototype initiative advanced their business skills through an inspired training program, while the most distinguished business ideas and companies presented their products and services at national and Mediterranean level by participating in MISTRAL networking activities. Two start-ups ([MARE INCOGNITA](#), [FAOS NPO](#)) were selected to participate in the Euro-Mediterranean Blue Growth elevator pitch competition and in the national learning camp on smart specialization strategies, organized in the framework of MISTRAL.



The HCMR team keeps building effective platforms for dialogue among marine scientists, innovators, governments, and the business community in order to promote innovative best practices in terms of Blue Growth, and improve national and regional research and innovation (R&I) policies by better integration of scientific and technological achievements. Considering the transition to the 2021-2027 programming period, MISTRAL partners collaborated with BLUEMED (H2020) partners and organized, on 11 and 12 January 2021, a high-level discussion and collaboration forum on the sustainable development of Blue Economy in Greece, targeting policy makers, regulators, and funds.

The first meeting aimed to create an open dialogue among a wide circle of policy makers, regulators, scientists, and the general public, regarding the risks and opportunities in the development of the marine and maritime economy of Greece. Based on the conclusions of the first meeting, an interactive workshop was organized among representatives of national and private funds and relevant research institutions in order to discuss the feasibility of the identified actions and prioritize them regarding the design of effective financial mechanisms and Research and Innovation (R&I) strategies that can boost sustainable development in the Blue Economy of Greece.







# Upcoming Events

The Maritime Marine Cluster of Andalusia based on the situation we are going through, we will launch a webinar titled: “Blue Economy, the value of our oceans and seas”, to discuss and create a collaborative network on maritime affairs and a sustainable Blue Economy and Blue Growth.

This activity is promoted by MISTRAL project, belonging to the Interreg MED programme, focused on strengthening international cooperation within the growth ecosystem and the blue economy and increasing capacities of innovation actors in the Med area.

The webinar will take place on the 27th of May. The speakers of the webinar will be important regional and national institutions, as well as private companies related to the maritime-marine field.

The event will be divided in two parts: one where the regional and national institutions will explain the importance of the Blue Economy and the different subsectors; and another one which will consist of a roadshow where every company will explain the different activities carried out within their business environment to students and civil society, aimed to promote blue economy as a clear future opportunity in terms of employment, with ports and universities as engines of innovation for industrial development and as essential axes of job creation.

More information about the upcoming events you can find on our Facebook, Twitter and on our website as well.



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