

## European Conference on Blue Growth

**Date:** 7 and 8 June 2023.

**Where:** Pleiades Building. Espinardo Campus. University of Murcia.

**General objective:** to promote the exchange of knowledge and experiences in order to contribute to the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the marine and coastal environment.

The conference has been organised by the University of Murcia (UMU) and in the framework of the ThinkInAzul (<https://thinkinazul.es/>) and Co-Evolve4BG (<https://www.enicbmed.eu/projects/co-evolve4bg>) projects.

Furthermore, the activity has been organised in the framework of the European Maritime Day In My Country (EMD In My Country: [https://maritime-day.ec.europa.eu/my-country\\_en#background](https://maritime-day.ec.europa.eu/my-country_en#background)) promoted by the European Commission. It will consist of a series of oral presentations, round tables and posters divided into six themes and five specific objectives.

**The conference is open and free.**

**Objetivos específicos (O):**

**Specific objectives (SO):**

**SO1. Development of new technologies for the monitoring and observation of the marine and coastal environment**

Research, development and application of new marine and terrestrial technologies for the observation and monitoring of the marine and coastal environment in order to assess and mitigate the impact on marine ecosystems and to ensure the sustainability of natural resources and to understand the role of climate change.

**SO2. Blue growth and aquaculture: precision, sustainable and smart aquaculture**

Strengthening the national aquaculture ecosystem through research, development and implementation of sustainable precision and intelligent aquaculture with the aim of increasing production efficiency and the capacity to adapt to the environment without harming the associated ecosystem. Facilitating and promoting traceability, quality, animal welfare and food safety mechanisms for seafood products.

### SO3. Blue Economy: Innovation and opportunities

Initiatives on the generation of an ecosystem of public-private collaboration to promote innovation and the transfer of research results in Blue Economy sectors and with the aim of contributing to economic development and job creation at three levels: i) promotion of innovation in economic sectors linked to the sea, ii) promotion of emerging lines of research, iii) promotion of the participation of society and public-private collaboration for the sustainability of activities related to the blue economy.

### SO4. Sustainable fisheries

Research and development initiatives and actions that promote small-scale fishing, the digitalisation of the fishing sector, the valorisation of its products and the transfer of local knowledge, with the aim of encouraging the promotion of the small-scale fishing sector, the role of marine protected areas, promoting transparency and facilitating decision-making that will allow progress in the socio-environmental sustainability of fishing activity.

### SO5. Blue Growth and coastal tourism

Research and development initiatives on sustainable blue tourism in the Mediterranean, especially in coastal areas and on the effects of climate change, coastal degradation, pressure on species and water resources or marine pollution. The objective is to analyse and promote the co-evolution of human activities and natural ecosystems in coastal tourist areas, towards a sustainable development of tourist activities based on the principles of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), while promoting Blue Growth in the Mediterranean.

## Program

### Day 7 June:

#### **9.30h. Opening of the Congress.**

Juan María Vázquez Rojas. Regional Minister for the Environment, Mar Menor, Universities and Research. Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia (CARM).

Senena Corbalán García. Vice-Rector for Research (UMU).

#### **10:00 - 10:30h. Keynote: The Complementary Plan in Marine Sciences: promoting research, innovation and knowledge transfer on the marine and coastal environment in Spain.**

Fernando de la Gándara García. Director of the Murcia Oceanographic Centre (IEO-CSIC) and scientific coordinator of the ThinkInAzul project.

**10:30 - 12:00h. Technical session 1:** Advances in monitoring the marine and coastal environment to promote sustainability and nature protection strategies in complex socio-ecological systems.

#### **12:00 -12:30h. Coffee break.**

**12:30 - 14:00h. Technical session 2:** Aquaculture as a driver for a fair, healthy and sustainable food system.

#### **14:00 - 15:00h. Lunch.**

**15:00 - 16:30h. Technical session 3:** Coevolution of coastal human activities and natural systems to promote sustainable blue tourism.

**16:30 - 18:00h. Technical session 4:** Sustainable fisheries, marine protected areas and digitisation as solutions to ensure local development in coastal communities.

## Day 8 June:

### **9.30h - 10:00h. Keynote: Network of Knowledge Spaces for Blue Growth as governance structures and catalytic instruments for the Blue Economy.**

José María Solano López. Coordinator of the Network of Knowledge Spaces for Blue Growth. General Secretariat for Fisheries. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

**10:00 - 11:30h. Technical session 5:** Public-private collaboration to promote innovation, transfer and exchange of knowledge on best practices for a sustainable Blue Economy.

**11:30 -12:00. Coffee break.**

**12:00 - 13: 30h. Technical session 6:** Young researchers in Marine Science: boosting blue skills, careers and employment.

**13: 30h - 14: 30h. Round table: The role of research and knowledge transfer in Marine Science in driving innovation and blue careers.**

**Chair:** Alfonsa García Ayala. Vice-Rector for Coordination and Quality (UMU).

**Participants:** Manuel Pleguezuelo Alonso (DG Mare); María Isabel Fortea Gorbe. Director General of Universities and Research (CARM); and Senena Corbalán García. Vice-Rector for Research (UMU).

**14:30h. Closure of the Conference.**

María Isabel Fortea Gorbe. Director General of Universities and Research (CARM).

**You can submit your abstract for an oral communication and/or poster via the following link: <https://forms.gle/yrooggSm8Ljhuc5c97>**

## Scientific-technical and organising committee of the conference

### 1. Scientific and Technical Committee

#### *Technical session 1. Monitoring of the marine and coastal environment:*

Antonio Skarmeta Gómez (UMU)

Marina Albentosa Verdú (IEO-CSIC)

Francisco López Castejón. Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena (UPCT)

José María Cecilia. Universidad Politécnica de Valencia (UPV)

Aurora González Vidal (UMU)

#### *Technical session 2. Sustainable, intelligent and precision aquaculture:*

Fernando de la Gándara (IEO-CSIC)

Alfonsa García Ayala (UMU)

María Ángeles Esteban Abad (UMU)

Victoria Fernández González (UMU)

Javier Sánchez Vázquez (UMU)

Cristóbal Espinosa Ruiz (UMU)

#### *Technical session 3. Blue tourism:*

Arnaldo Marín Atucha (UMU)

Jesús Enrique Argente García (UMU)

Bechir Bejaoui. Instituto Nacional de Ciencias y Tecnologías Marinas (INSTM, Túnez)

Hechmi Missaoui (INSTM, Túnez)

#### *Technical session 4. Sustainable fisheries and marine protected areas:*

Luis Gaspar Miret Pastor (UPV)

Paloma Racionero Herrera (UPV)

José Antonio García Charton (UMU)

María Semitiel García (UMU)

***Technical session 5. Public-private collaboration to promote innovation and knowledge transfer in Blue Economy sectors:***

Antonio Sánchez Amat (UMU)

Jesús Enrique Argente García (UMU)

Noelia Ortega. Centro Tecnológico Naval y del Mar (CTN)

Cristóbal Aguilera. Instituto de Investigación y Tecnología Agroalimentarias (IRTA)

***Technical session 6. Young researchers: competences and blue careers:***

María Ángeles Esteban Abad (UMU)

Victoria García González (UMU)

Aurora González Vidal (UMU)

Cristóbal Espinosa Ruiz (UMU)

Noelia Ortega Ortega (CTN)

**2. Congress Organising Committee**

**President:** Senena Corbalán García (UMU)

**Secretary:** Arnaldo Marín Atucha (UMU)

**Vocal:** Antonio Skarmeta Gómez (UMU)

**Vocal:** Jesús Enrique Argente García (UMU)