



2026 SYMPOSIUM

Full Sail Ahead Towards the Sustainable Blue Economy

11 February 2026

Radisson Blu Bucharest, Romania



The Drop: Setting the Scene		
9:00 9:30	Opening and Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ekaterina Zaharieva, European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation (TBC) • Andrei Alexandru, President of Romania's National Research Authority • Fabio Fava, Advisor to the Italian Minister of Universities and Research
9:30 9:50	Keynote Speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC
9:50 10:00	Strengthening Cooperation across Sea Basins: a European Approach to a Sustainable Blue Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andreea Strachinescu, Head of Unit for Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment, DG MARE, European Commission
First Ring: Political & Regional Context		
10:05 10:40	Panel 1 – Navigating Uncertainty: Policy, Geopolitics and the Black Sea Dimension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexandra Bogdan, Romanian National Coordinator for the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea, Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Irina Makarenko, Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission • Mihai Sebastian Chihaiia, Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre • Olga Polotska, Executive Director, National Research Foundation of Ukraine (TBC)
10:40 11:30	Coffee & Exhibition Walk	

Expanding Ripples: Impact & Uptake		
11:30 12:15	Panel 2 – From Research to Ripple Effect: Early Results from our Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mihai Datcu (Romania), Coordinator DIVE • Alexander Micallef (Malta), Coordinator OCEAN-H2 • Lena Bergström (Sweden), Coordinator MSP4MORE • Lionel Camus (Norway), Coordinator CliN-BluFeed • Marta Martínez (Spain), Coordinator SEAFOODTURE • Alice Affatati (Italy), Coordinator MARVEL
12:15 12:30	Inspirational Talk on R&I in the Black Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilge Durgut, Middle East Technical University
12:30 13:30	Lunch & Networking	
13:30 14:05	Panel 3 – The Market Uptake Challenge: Engaging Industry and Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer Fietzek, Senior Business Development Manager, Kongsberg Discovery • Ingeborg Frøysnes, Special Advisor Scale-ups and AI, Innovation Norway • Christelle Sapata, Senior Manager, PwC
14:05 14:30	Cultural Intermezzo with TIDAL Arts	
14:30 15:05	Panel 4 – Beyond the Horizon: Shaping Global Impact Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raffaele Mancini, Director, UN Ocean Decade Collaborative Centre for the Sustainable Ocean Economy • Oriana Romano, Head of Unit Water Governance, Blue and Circular Economy, Urban Policies, and Sustainable Development Division, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities
15:05 15:50	Coffee & Exhibition Walk	
Propagating Waves: Closing Session		
15:50 16:30	Concluding Roundtable: Future Opportunities & Looking Ahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiebke Pankauke, Deputy Head of Unit Ocean, Seas and Waters, DG RTD, European Commission • Peter Haugan, Policy Director, Institute of Marine Research of Norway; Chair of JPI Oceans • Viorel Vulturescu, Director, National Authority for Scientific Research of Romania
16:30 17:00	Wrap-Up & Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eva Falleth, Executive Director Sustainable Development, Research Council of Norway; Chair of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership's General Assembly • Margherita Cappelletto, Coordinator of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership
Evening Reception		