

## 2026 SYMPOSIUM:

# Full Sail Ahead Towards the Sustainable Blue Economy

11 February, Radisson Blu Bucharest



### Morning Session – The Drop (Setting the Scene)

9:00 – 9:30	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daniel-Ovidiu David, Minister for Education and Research, Romania (TBC)</li> <li>• Ekaterina Zaharieva, European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation (TBC)</li> <li>• Fabio Fava, Counsellor for the Italian Minister of Universities and Research</li> <li>• Margherita Cappelletto, Coordinator of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, Italian Ministry of Universities and Research</li> </ul>
9:30 – 9:50	<b>Keynote Speech</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBC</li> </ul>
9:50 – 10:00	<b>Strengthening Cooperation across sea basins: a European approach to a Sustainable Blue Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andreea Strachinescu, Head of Unit for Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment, DG MARE, European Commission</li> </ul>

### First Ripples (Political & Regional Context)

10:05 – 10:40	<b>Panel 1 – Navigating Uncertainty: Policy, Geopolitics and the Black Sea Dimension</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iryna Makarenko, Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission</li> <li>• Mihai Sebastian Chihaiia, Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre</li> <li>• Olga Polotska, National Research Foundation of Ukraine (TBC)</li> </ul>
10:40 – 11:30	Coffee & Exhibition Walk	

### Expanding Ripples (Impact & Uptake)

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

**Evening Reception**