



2026 SYMPOSIUM

Full Sail Ahead Towards the Sustainable Blue Economy

11 February 2026

Radisson Blu Bucharest, Romania



The Drop: Setting the Scene

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| 9:00 9:30 | Opening and Welcome | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ekaterina Zaharieva, European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation (TBC)• Victor Negrescu, Member of the European Parliament, Romania (video message)• 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">• Antonio Borriello, Scientific Research Officer, European Commission Joint Research Centre |
| 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

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| 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 Chihai, Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre |
| 10:40 11:30 | Coffee & Exhibition Walk | |

Expanding Ripples: Impact & Uptake

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| 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 |
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| 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 |
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| 12:30 13:30 | Lunch & Networking |
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| 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 |
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| 14:05 14:30 | Cultural Intermezzo with TIDAL Arts |
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| 14:30 14:50 | 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 |
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| 14:50 15:05 | Inspirational Talk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adrian Stanica, General Director, National Institute of Geology and Marine Geoecology of Romania (GeoEcoMar) |
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| 15:05 15:50 | Coffee & Exhibition Walk |
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Propagating Waves: Closing Session

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| 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 |
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| 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 |
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Evening Reception