



## 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	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ekaterina Zaharieva, European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation (TBC)</li><li>• Victor Negrescu, Member of the European Parliament, Romania (video message)</li><li>• Andrei Alexandru, President of Romania's National Research Authority</li><li>• Fabio Fava, Advisor to the Italian Minister of Universities and Research</li></ul>
9:30 9:50	<b>Keynote Speech</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Antonio Borriello, Scientific Research Officer, European Commission Joint Research Centre</li></ul>
9:50 10:00	<b>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 Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment, DG MARE, European Commission</li></ul>

### First Ring: 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>• Alexandru Buicliu, Deputy Director, Business Environment Directorate, Ministry of Economy, Digitalization, Entrepreneurship and Tourism of Romania</li><li>• Iryna Makarenko, Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission</li><li>• Mihai Sebastian Chihaia, Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre</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 <a href="#">DIVE</a></li> <li>• Alexander Micallef (Malta), Coordinator <a href="#">OCEAN-H2</a></li> <li>• Lena Bergström (Sweden), Coordinator <a href="#">MSP4MORE</a></li> <li>• Lionel Camus (Norway), Coordinator <a href="#">CliN-BluFeed</a></li> <li>• Marta Martínez (Spain), Coordinator <a href="#">SEAFOODTURE</a></li> <li>• Alice Affatati (Italy), Coordinator MARVEL</li> </ul>
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12:15 12:30	<b>Inspirational Talk</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bilge Durgut, Middle East Technical University</li> </ul>
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12:30 13:30	Lunch & Networking
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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, Senior Business Development Manager, Kongsberg Discovery</li> <li>• Ingeborg Frøysnes, Special Advisor Scale-ups and AI, Innovation Norway</li> <li>• Christelle Sapata, Senior Manager, PwC</li> </ul>
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14:05 14:30	<b>Cultural Intermezzo with TIDAL Arts</b>
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14:30 14:50	<b>Panel 4 – Beyond the Horizon: Shaping Global Impact Together</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raffaele Mancini, Director, UN Ocean Decade Collaborative Centre Sustainable Ocean Economy</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>
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14:50 15:05	<b>Inspirational Talk</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adrian Stanica, General Director, National Institute of Geology and Marine Geoecology of Romania (GeoEcoMar)</li> </ul>
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15:05 15:50	Coffee & Exhibition Walk
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## Propagating Waves: Closing Session

15:50 16:30	<b>Concluding Roundtable: Future Opportunities &amp; Looking Ahead</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiebke Pankauke, Deputy Head of Unit Ocean, Seas and Waters, DG RTD, European Commission</li> <li>• Peter Haugan, Policy Director, Institute of Marine Research of Norway; Chair of JPI Oceans</li> <li>• Viorel Vulturescu, Director, National Authority for Scientific Research of Romania</li> </ul>
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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; Chair of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership's General Assembly</li> <li>• Margherita Cappelletto, Coordinator of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership</li> </ul>
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## Evening Reception