



2026 SYMPOSIUM: FULL SAIL AHEAD TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

11 February 2026

Radisson Blu Bucharest, Romania



Participants are welcome to join an icebreaker dinner on 10 February at the restaurant Caru' cu bere (19:00 EET), subject to prior confirmation.

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)Victor Negrescu, Member and Vice-President of the European Parliament, Romania (video address)Andrei Alexandru, President of Romania's National Research AuthorityFabio Fava, Advisor to the Italian Minister of University and Research
9:30 9:50	Keynote Speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Antonio Borriello, Scientific Research Officer, European Commission's Joint Research Centre
9:50 10:00	Cooperation across Sea Basins: European Approach to a Sustainable Blue Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Andreea Strachinescu, Head of Unit 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 Session Convener: JPI Oceans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alexandru Buicliu, Deputy Director Business Environment, Ministry of Economy, Digitalisation, Entrepreneurship and Tourism of RomaniaIryna Makarenko, Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea CommissionMihai Sebastian Chihaiia, Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre
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10:40 11:30	Coffee & Exhibition Walk
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Expanding Ripples: Impact & Uptake

11:30	Panel 2 – From Research to Ripple Effect: Early Results from our Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mihai Dăncu (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	Session Convener: Margherita Zorgno	
12:15	Inspirational Talk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bilge Durgut, Ph.D. student, Middle East Technical University
12:30	Lunch & Networking	
13:30	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	Session Convener: Frode Dal Fjeldavli	
14:05	Cultural Intermezzo with TIDAL ArtS	
14:30	Panel 4 – Beyond the Horizon: Shaping Global Impact Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raffaele Mancini, Director, UN Ocean Decade's Collaborative Centre on Sustainable Ocean Economy Oriana Romano, Head of the Water Governance, Blue and Circular Economy Unit, OECD
14:50	Session Convener: Julie Olivier	
15:05	Inspirational Talk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adrian Stanica, General Director, GeoEcoMar
15:05	Coffee & Exhibition Walk	
Propagating Waves: Closing Session		
15:50	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	Wrap-Up & Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Margherita Cappelletto, Coordinator of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership Eva Falleth, Executive Director Sustainable Development, Research Council of Norway; Chair of the Partnership's General Assembly
Evening Reception		