

SEA-EU

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SEA-EU consortium meeting in Brest

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reSEARchEU and SEA-EU DOC news

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SEA-EU for all: We made it!



The European University of the Seas (SEA-EU) expands its horizon, its partners and its funding, consolidating itself as a reference in the construction of the new European knowledge area based on the essential role of universities. SEA-EU is growing in partners, activities and resources. This has been confirmed by the European Commission after the publication of the resolution of the call for the renewal of Partnerships belonging to the European Universities Initiative.

The European Commission has positively assessed the completeness of the activity report submitted and the strategic activity proposal to extend the scope of action for the next four years. Thus, the European University of the Seas (SEA-EU) has managed to renew this label and significantly increase funding through its proposal entitled “SEA-EU FOR ALL”.

This transnational campus, now with nine committed universities and more than 20 cities involved, already welcomes more than 150,000 students and 18,000 employees who will be involved in the objectives that are at the heart of this proposal.



The University of Bretagne Occidentale hosts the last Consortium meeting of the first period.

The University of Western Brittany UBO in Brest (France) hosted the last meeting of the Governing Board of the European University of the Seas SEA-EU 1.0 on 21 September. The rector of the University of Cadiz, Francisco Piniella, together with the rector of the UBO, Matthieu Gallou, opened the meeting, which was attended by the rectors of the nine partner universities that will form this European alliance in its second phase: Western Brittany (Brest), Cadiz, Gdansk (Poland), Kiel (Germany), Malta, Split (Croatia) and the three new members Algarve (Portugal), Naples Parthenope (Italy) and Nord (Norway).

The agenda included the analysis of the achievements of this first 3 years, under the coordination of the University of Cadiz, as well as the transition to the second period: aspects of justification, changes in the governance structure, etc. The General Coordinator of SEA-EU, Fidel Echevarría, gave a summary of the evaluation of the SEA-EU 2.0 proposal.

Afterwards, the Student Council reported on how they have experienced the first phase and what suggestions they make for the second one. The meeting hosted a discussion on the lessons learned in these first years and how to apply them in the transition to the years to come. Finally, an assessment was made of the status of the two nested projects: reSEArcheEU and SEA-EU DOC.

The Kickoff meeting of the second phase of the Alliance will be held at the University of Cadiz in February 2023.



SEA-EU job shadowings boost cooperation between universities

The coordinating council of the University of Gdańsk (Poland) together with the management team of the University of Cádiz, led by its Rector, Francisco Piniella, accompanied by the General Coordinator, Fidel Echevarría, met in Cadiz to discuss topics such as governance issues, the structure of universities and teams, the future of SEA-EU, shared governance, as well as research, education, internationalisation, students, infrastructure and digitisation policies. This was one of the many job-shadowings that are taking place in the Alliance to increase our mutual knowledge and to boost our cooperation.





TURQUOOOISE working on our first joint master

SEA-EU's project TURQUOOOISE (which stands for: Transition to Uncertainty by Revising, Questioning and Unsettling Objectives, Outcomes and Operations Integrating sustainability in Education), was awarded an Erasmus Mundus Design Measures (EMDM) grant in August 2022.

The European Commission reviewers must have been quite impressed, giving a mark of 97/100, and commending the proposed Master to be timely, carefully conceived and innovative.

The name, TURQUOOOISE, points towards a merger of the "green" (sustainability) and the "blue" (marine & maritime), which align to create a 'turquoise' manager - to help transition businesses to an uncertain environment, learning lessons from nature.

The Master also aims to be transdisciplinary, bridging knowledge and skill gaps between business and ocean sciences, integrating themes of ocean literacy and the blue economy. With this initiative, SEA EU will break new pedagogical ground, creating an international and English-language Master's, made up of micro-credentials which can also be taken separately; to give a "turquoise touch" to one's CV, or together, to create a full Master's degree.

The TURQUOOOISE EMDM project starts its designing process in November 2022, with a view to opening up the degree to the first cohort of students in 2024. The University of Malta is leading the EMDM stage; while the University of Western Brittany is the lead institution for the eventual master's degree.

SEA-EU participates in the European Degree Label

SEA-EU is participating in this call launched by the European Commission, which will allow alliances of higher education institutions and national authorities to examine, test and facilitate, on a voluntary basis, the delivery of a joint European degree label, based on common criteria. On this occasion, SEA-EU participates as a partner together with three other alliances: ARQUS, EUTOPIA and ENLIGHT.



First meeting of the Observatory of Migrations

The first face-to-face meeting of the SEA-EU Migration Observatory took place in Cadiz on 27-28 September 2022.

It was a hybrid meeting with the presence of representatives of the University of Gdansk, the University of Brest, and the University of NORD, as well as representatives of the University of Cadiz, hosts, and coordinators of this Observatory, one of the two that have been launched within the framework of SEA-EU.

[\[more\]](#)





SEA-EU DOC Delphi analysis

The partners of the SEA-EU DOC project are currently conducting a "Delphi analysis" as part of the IO2 "skill matching challenge" (IO leader: UCA). With the purpose of aligning doctoral students' skills with employers' and entrepreneurs' expectations in the non-academic sector, the partners have identified 20 representatives of the non-academic sector working in the marine and maritime industry who have some influence on their company hiring procedure to answer a series of questions regarding the skills of doctors needed to take up a position within their company/corporation. Regarding the coordination of the project, UBO will organise the next coordination meeting in Brest in November (16-18) on the occasion of the Annual Seminar of the Doctoral School of Coastal and Marine Sciences of the UBO.

First face-to-face meeting of the Anti-Fragility Think Tank

After several months working together, members of the SEA-EU Anti-Fragility Think Tank met in person for the first time in Split between 1 and 2 September.

Contributing to the construction of more resilient, antifragile institutions has been one of the main objectives of the reSEArch-EU project since its beginning. That is the reason why the Anti-Fragility plays a key role identifying the main challenges for our universities (especially considering the many disruptions faced because of the COVID-19 pandemic in the last two years), as well as possible ways forward that may allow our universities in the future not only to resist similar events that may occur, but indeed to learn from and to strengthen thanks to them.

The Anti-Fragility Think had met for the first time, in online mode, last January (you can watch the recording of the video [clicking here](#)). The face-to-face meeting of September helped close the details of the Rules of Procedure to be released in late December and provided the leads to be followed by this working group in the months ahead.





Speculative Design workshop

How will research be conducted in the future? Are we fully aware of the broad range of possibilities for researchers to work remotely and therefore be able to collaborate more effectively with their teams abroad?

To try and answer these and other questions, representatives coming from different partner Universities of the SEA-EU Alliance met in Split last July. From 4 to 6 July these representatives discussed and brainstormed ideas related to the way research might be conducted in the future. This was done following the Speculative Design methodology, to which participants were introduced in the first of a series of sessions, and that was then put into practice.

This workshop took as a first reference the results obtained with the report on current remotization practices in research and innovation ([you can read it clicking here](#)) and will feed into the design and development of the newly-created SEA-EU Academy ([which you can visit clicking here](#)).



Meeting of the Joint Degree Academic Committee

On 13 and 14 October, the Joint Bachelor Academic expert group met in Cadiz to advance in the process of creating the first joint bachelors degree of the SEA-EU Alliance.

Experts in education policy, economics and marine sciences met to shape this degree that will be offered to SEA-EU students.

The bachelor's degree in Sustainable Blue Economy should give students fundamental knowledge about the marine environment and its intrinsic links to economic and social activity.

Among the participants are already members of the new partner universities, the University of Algarve, the University of Naples Parthenope, and NORD University. In addition, members of the Universities of Cadiz, Gdansk, Split and Malta have also participated in person.



SEA-EU at the Closure of EuConexus first period

The good relations with the other European Alliances are reflected in occasions such as this one, where SEA-EU's General Coordinator, Fidel Echevarría, was invited, on behalf of the consortium, to the closing event of the first phase of the EuConexus Alliance.

SEA-EU and EuConexus have a long-standing collaboration agreement in research areas.



SEA-EU stars at the opening ceremony in Gdansk

On 3 October 2022, the Solemn Ceremony for the opening of the academic year was held at the University of Gdansk, Poland. This year, the Rector of this university, Piotr Stepnowski, wanted the main theme of this event to be the achievement of the renewal of the SEA-EU Alliance and all the benefits that this implies for the university community. Stepnowski formally invited the General Coordinator of the Alliance, Fidel Echevarría, to give the inaugural lecture during this opening event.



SEA-EU summit at the 2nd edition of INNOVAZUL

In this edition, under the InnovAzul umbrella, several complementary events will be held. It has been designed as an event of events that efficiently leverages and aligns efforts and objectives. One of these events will be the SEA-EU Summit, which will be held on December 2nd from 9:00 to 14:00 with the title:

SEA-EU partnership capabilities and opportunities around the blue economy.

Vice-rectors of research of the partner universities, experts in different topics related to blue sustainability, as well as companies, ports, city councils, and research institutes from the 9 territories that make up the Alliance, will participate in this event with round tables and short conferences to which you can register on the INNOVAZUL website.

[The programme can be found here.](#)



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