

# COOPERATION IDEA

## *Fisheries Local Action Groups*

### Blue Economy Incubator

Sectors in the blue economy are facing challenges (e.g. lack of skills locally, shortage of funding...) that prevent the growth of those emerging work areas with high potential. The "Blue Economy Incubator" project aims to promote innovative solutions addressing selected maritime and marine challenges and opportunities.

#### *Objectives*

The "Blue Economy Incubator" will be a structure to establish solid partnerships, fostering multi-disciplinary approaches and enhancing cooperation amongst maritime stakeholders at local, regional and sea basin levels, by tailoring solutions to the specific needs of one or more sea basins or sub-sea basins surrounding the EU coasts.

The project will have three topic areas:

- **Blue Labs:** multi-disciplinary approaches and innovative partnerships between maritime stakeholders to drive innovation in the blue economy;
- **Blue Careers:** the development of blue and smart skills, fit to meet the evolving needs of the labour market in the blue economy;
- **Blue Awareness:** identifying innovative technologies and/or maritime services to improve and promote their market readiness, advance towards market entry.

#### *Proposed actions*

- Design and development of strategic plans for the blue economy
- Market analysis and business plans
- Study visits and field trips to explore problems and identify solutions
- Training, workshops, conferences
- Dissemination and public awareness activities
- Mentoring and legal/financial counselling
- Activities to bring relevant synergies and complementarity
- Networking activities between partners areas, and with relevant EU projects

#### *Desired results*

- Innovative marina and leisure boat design, by developing technological solutions and services for adapting boats to changing demand from customers (e.g. access to marinas and boats for an ageing population).
- Establishment of new markets, product support, and adaptation of existing aquaculture production towards the most eco-friendly and sustainable practices such as multi-species, multi-product production.
- Promoting structured and permanent collaboration frameworks between industry and education systems, to integrate the most recent updates on technologies and market to training.
- Creating authorities networks (consisting of the education, industry and public sectors) at sea basin level to map existing educational activities, share best practices, develop common training programmes, and foster transnational mobility of learners and teachers.

- Awareness-raising and dissemination activities on the blue economy, such as study visits, exchange of knowledge and good practices and/or establishing contact with other EU projects.

**Thematic category:** Promotion and awareness-raising; Business support; Aquaculture; Education and training; Tourism; Marine activities

**Looking for partner located:** in the Baltic, Black Sea and Mediterranean. The partnership currently consists of three Greek partners:

- Attica Islands Network of Municipalities (lead partner)
- Regional Development Company of Paronias
- Development Agency of Thessaloniki

**Cooperation idea proposed by:**

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