



2026 SYMPOSIUM:

Full Sail Ahead Towards the Sustainable Blue Economy

11 February, Radisson Blu Bucharest



Morning Session – The Drop (Setting the Scene)

9:00 – 9:30	Opening and Welcome	• Daniel-Ovidiu David, Minister for Education and Research, Romania (TBC) • Ekaterina Zaharieva, European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation (TBC) • Margherita Cappelletto, Coordinator of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, Italian Ministry of Universities and Research
9:30 – 9:50	Keynote Speech	• TBC
9:50 – 10:00	Strengthening Cooperation across sea basins: a European approach to a Sustainable Blue Economy	• Andreea Strachinescu, Head of Unit for Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment, DG MARE, European Commission

First Ripples (Political & Regional Context)

10:05 – 10:40	Panel 1 – Navigating Uncertainty: Policy, Geopolitics and the Black Sea Dimension	• TBC
10:40 – 11:30	Coffee & Exhibition Walk	

Expanding Ripples (Impact & Uptake)

11:30 – 12:15	Panel 2 – From Research to Ripple Effect: Early Results from our Projects	• Mihai Datcu (Romania) - Coordinator DIVE • Alexander Micallef (Malta) Coordinator OCEAN-H2 • Lena Bergström (Sweden) - Coordinator MSP4MORE • Lionel Camus (Norway) - Coordinator CliN-BluFeed • Marta Martinez (Spain) - Coordinator SEA • Alice Affatati (Italy) - Coordinator MARVEL
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12:15 – 12:30	Inspirational talk on R&I in the Black Sea	• Bilge Durgut, Middle East Technical University
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch & Networking	
13:30 – 14:05	Panel 3 – The Market Uptake Challenge: Engaging Industry and Finance	• Peer Fietzek, Kongsberg Discovery • Ingeborg Frøysnes, Special Advisor Scale-ups and AI, Innovation Norway • Christelle Sapata, Senior Manager, PwC
14:05 – 14:30	Cultural intermezzo	• TIDAL Arts
14:30 – 15:05	Panel 4 – Making Waves Beyond the Horizon	• Raffaele Mancini, Director of the UN Ocean Decade Collaborative Centre for the Sustainable Ocean Economy • Oriana Romano, Head of Unit, Water Governance and Circular Economy, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities
15:05 – 15:50	Coffee & Exhibition Walk	
Closing Session – The Wider Waves		
15:50 – 16:30	Concluding Panel: Future Opportunities & Looking Ahead	• Wiebke Pankauke, Deputy Head of Unit, Healthy Planet Directorate: Ocean, Seas and Waters, DG RTD, European Commission • Viorel Vulturescu, Director at National Authority for Research, Romania • Member of the European Parliament (TBC)
16:30 – 17:00	Wrap-Up & Next Steps	• Eva Falleth, Executive Director Sustainable Development, Research Council of Norway & Chair of the Partnership’s General Assembly • Margherita Cappelletto, Coordinator of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership
Evening Reception		