



Mediterranean Blue Economy Conference 2026

Driving Interregional Innovation & Sustainable Growth

Date: 23rd June 2026

Location: UNIVERSIDAD POLITÉCNICA DE CARTAGENA, Cartagena, Spain

Address: Faculty of Business Sciences, C. Real, 3, 30201 Cartagena, Murcia, Spain

Time	Session name
09:00 – 9:30	Registration & Welcome Coffee
09:30 – 9:50	Opening Remarks • <i>Mathieu Kessler Neyer, Rector of Technical University of Cartagena</i>
09:50 – 10:05	MED-Hubs: Building Blue Economy Innovation Hubs • <i>Thomas Kösters, Managing Director, DEEP Ecosystems</i>
10:05 -10:15	Introduction to the Marine Energy Hub in Spain • <i>Francisco López Castejón, Researcher associate at the Technical University of Cartagena</i>
10:15 -10:25	Introduction to ALFA Hub in Italy • <i>Flavio Bungaro, Project Manager, Justonearth</i>
10:25 – 11:00	Keynote Session The Next Wave of Blue Growth: Innovation and Investment Shaping Europe's Ocean Economy • <i>Dilyara Bakhtieva, Economist in the Unit for Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investment, DG MARE, European Commission</i>
11:00-11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:00	Panel 1 From Policy to Practice: Implementing Blue Economy Smart Specialization Strategies (S3) Moderator: <i>Miguel Hernandez Rosas, Manager at GALP Mallorca</i> Speakers: • <i>Dr. Begüm Önal, Founder & Consultant, B-NL Academy & Consultancy</i> • <i>José Carlos García Martínez, Head of Business Development and European Funding - European Business and Innovation Centre Cartagena, Head of Startups at CAETRA</i>



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	• <i>Amélie Desrochers, CEO, Afloat Invest</i>
12:00-12:45	Panel 2 Connecting Mediterranean Innovation Ecosystems for Blue Growth Moderator: <i>Elisa Van Engelenhoven, EU Project Manager at FORMARE</i> Speakers: • <i>Celia Murcia, Consultant, WestMED Assistance Mechanism Coordinator</i> • <i>Andreas Klapsis, Head of Growth, Startup Greece</i> • <i>Pedro Bobião, Founder & Managing Director, Vide de Grunwald</i> • <i>Mihaela Mirea, Project Leader, Energy Transition Partnership Assistance Mechanism</i>
12:45-14:00	Lunch & Networking
14:00-14:30	Keynote Session “Turning Waves into Energy: Innovation for a Resilient Blue Economy” • <i>Iñigo Doria, CEO of Arrecife</i>
14:30 -15:15	Panel 3 <i>Empowering Coastal Communities in the Blue Economy Transition</i> Moderator: <i>Shivam Dhawan, Founder of Getboarded</i> Speakers: • <i>Javier Fernandez Lopez, Technical Director at ECORYS</i> • <i>Dr. Avinash Shedge, Biosecurity Consultant – Provider of Sustainable solutions for Water remediation, Aquaculture, Oceans & Maritime Industry, Samthan Shedge</i> • <i>Finn van der Aar, Marine Biologist Specialising in Coastal Communities, Sustainable Tourism, and the Blue Economy, Saltwater Stories</i> • <i>Mathias Charles, CEO of Live Love Recycle</i>
15:15-15:45	Coffee Break & Networking
15:45 -16:30	Panel 4 Financing & Scaling Blue Innovation



	Moderator: <i>Dr. Shkelzen Marku, Co-founder and CEO of YSB/Enterimpact Balkans and Growpreneur Accelerator</i> Speakers: • <i>Pranav Tetali, Founder & CEO, Omni Wind</i> • <i>Angus Murphy, Associate, Aquamarine</i> • <i>Hector Gonzalez Menendez, NPC of European Programs, The Centre for Technological Development and Innovation (CDTI)</i> • <i>Abraham Trujillo Quintela, Head of Unit “European Research Area” – Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)</i>
16:30-16:40	Open innovation and cooperation to address the challenges of the naval sector • <i>Noelia Ortega, Director of CTN</i>
16:40 – 16:55	Maritime Strategy of the Region of Murcia • <i>Emilio María Dolores, Head of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Service of the Directorate-General for Agricultural and Fisheries</i>
16:55 – 17:00	Closing remarks
18:45-19:45	Guided tour to the Museum of the Roman Theater of Cartagena
20:00-22:00	Networking dinner at Mare Nostrum