



European  
Commission



Interact



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Atlantic Area



**MINISTÈRE  
CHARGÉ DE LA MER  
ET DE LA PÊCHE**  
*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*



**Région  
Nouvelle-  
Aquitaine**

November 21 and 22  
2024

Bordeaux, France

# 11<sup>th</sup> Atlantic Stakeholders Platform Conference

Conference Report



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# Introduction

## Concept and objectives of the Conference

Echoing the results of the previous year, the Atlantic Strategy, in collaboration with the Interreg Atlantic Area, Interact, and Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine hosted, from 19-11 of November 2024, the Atlantic Week in Bordeaux. Part of consolidated agenda of events was the 11th Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference (ASPC 2024), which took place on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2024.

As in previous years, ASPC provided stakeholders of the Atlantic Community the opportunity to review the progress and achievements made so far regarding AAP 2.0, objectives and blue economy challenges in the Atlantic Sea Basin.

In line with the 2023 Ministerial Declaration signed in Porto, this year's French Presidency of Atlantic Steering Committee has been focusing on three key priorities that underscore the Ministerial Declaration: cross-sea basin dialogue, stakeholder community involvement and international cooperation. Based on this approach, the ASPC 2024 had dynamic sessions focusing on increasing inclusivity by fostering participation of different communities, regional and local stakeholders in the AAP 2.0, internationalisation of AAP and enhancing cross-sea basin dialogue..

The theme of this year's conference was "Atlantic week in Bordeaux: towards a blue future supported by cooperation".



# Introduction

## Conference Structure



### Co-opening Ceremony

*This year a co-opening ceremony in collaboration with Interreg Atlantic Area took place including welcoming messages by Interreg AA Managing Authority, Nouvelle Aquitaine region, French ASC Presidency and European Commission*



### 3 Flash Sessions

*The ASPC agenda included flash sessions discussing “Strengthening inclusivity of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 and enhancing dialogue with outermost regions”, the International dimension of the AAP 2.0 and the enhancement of cross-sea basin dialogue.*



### Networking and Matchmaking

*Bringing together all participating stakeholders to connect, discuss and network in a lively Project exhibition area.*



### Atlantic Project Awards

*Six awards granted in five award categories as a recognition of the projects’ outstanding performance, promoting the key priorities/goals of the Atlantic Strategy.*



### Parallel Workshops/Hackathons

*The ASPC hackathons included short scene setter by AAP Pillar Coordinators and interactive discussions with stakeholders, exchanging ideas, examples to follow so as to develop future project ideas.*



### Closing Ceremony and the Handover of the ASC Presidency

*Key conclusions of the ASPC24 and handover to the next Irish ASC Presidency.*

# ASPC 2024 in numbers



More than 190 Participants (114 in-person participants & 78 online participants)



Participants from > 8 EU countries



23 Speakers



Back-to-back with 2 pre-related events (Interreg Atlantic Area Annual event and Blue Synergies event)



## Participants' Evaluation

**92%** Satisfaction with the overall event & with the balance of stakeholders represented during the event

## Participants' Organisations

01

23% National Government and EU institutions

02

21% Local Government/ Institution

03

19% Academia, Research institutions

04

19% Private Sector

05

18% Other\*

\* Including other types of organisations (e.g. Assistance Mechanism, Business Support Organisation, etc.) or attendees that did not declared their organisation

# Presentation of key topics covered by Plenary Sessions

**1<sup>st</sup>  
Flash  
session**

**Strengthening inclusivity of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 and enhancing dialogue with outermost regions**

**2<sup>nd</sup>  
Flash  
session**

**Internationalisation of the research and innovation dimension of the AAP 2.0**

**3<sup>rd</sup>  
Flash  
session**

**Stakeholders input to Atlantic Strategy and cooperation with other Sea Basins (WestMed, North Sea and Black Sea)**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Flash session: Strengthening inclusivity of the Atlantic Action Plan 2.0 and enhancing dialogue with outermost regions

This session focused on one of the Atlantic Steering Committee (ASC) French Presidency's priorities emphasizing the importance of all Atlantic Stakeholders working together towards a sustainable blue economy in the Atlantic region. The aim was to highlight the need to advance inclusivity among all Atlantic communities and present challenges, opportunities, lessons learned and recommendations from different levels of governance (European, National, Regional & Local)

## *Speakers:*

- **Pauline Caumont**, Policy Officer on Maritime Cooperation (Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic), DG MARE
- **Mathieu Bergé**, Regional Councilor in charge of European Territorial Cooperation, Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region, French National Correspondent for INTERREG AA
- **Olivier Laroussinie**, Managing Director Maritime Planning, Centre for Studies on Risks, the Environment, Mobility and Urban Planning (CEREMA)

## *Key outcomes:*

- It is of key importance to have clear frameworks and inclusivity, ensuring that objectives are well-defined and all stakeholders, including outermost regions, are involved in the planning and implementation processes.
- Effective stakeholder engagement is crucial, highlighting the need for cross-sectoral debates, civil society involvement, and enhanced cooperation between regions and stakeholders.
- There is a continuous need for improvement, particularly in addressing local and cross-border issues. Recommendations include recognising regional roles, utilising national contact points, and promoting innovative approaches like Atlantic Hackathons to support and develop projects.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Flash session: Internationalisation of the research and innovation dimension of the AAP 2.0

This session explored how research and innovation can drive the internationalisation of the Atlantic Strategy, building on the Mission Restore our Oceans and the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (Aooria). The discussion included also contributions of EU projects (OKEANO and BlueMissionAA) and the private sector, particularly through cluster initiative (Case of Pôle Mer Bretagne Atlantique), in supporting the internationalisation of the AAP 2.0

### *Speakers:*

- **Szilvia Nemeth**, Deputy Head of Unit Ocean, Seas and Waters, Directorate General Research and Innovation
- **Stefan Fritz**, Representative of OKEANO Project, Managing Director, Konsortium Deutsche Meeresforschung (KDM)
- **Oliver Wilson**, Representative of BlueMissionAA Project, Marine Institute
- **Philippe Monbet**, Director General, Pôle Mer Bretagne Atlantique

### *Key outcomes:*

- Maritime clusters provide significant benefits on supporting public policies, reach regional stakeholders, connect entities across EU and beyond, acting as a single contact, and promote a sustainable Blue Economy.
- The EU chairman priorities of Aooria in 2025 focus on creating leadership, monitoring Aooria declaration progress, launching the blue intergenerational program, advancing polar research, reinforcing Caribbean and African roles, developing Work Plans, and discussing sustainable ocean food.
- An All-Atlantic Coastal Resilience Community is currently being developed showcasing partner efforts, capturing diverse initiatives, networking knowledge holders, supporting co-design processes, and offering a pan-Atlantic exchange space.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Flash session: Stakeholders input to Atlantic Strategy and cooperation with other Sea Basins (WestMed, Atlantic, North Sea and Black Sea)

This session aimed to foster greater cooperation between the Atlantic, WestMED, Black Sea, and GNSBI by building on the work of the Atlantic Pillars and addressing the needs and priorities of each Sea Basin Strategy. The second part of the session featured interactive discussion with experts from the Sea Basins, who shared real-life examples and best practices on how to strengthen collaboration between the Atlantic Strategy and other Sea Basins

## Speakers:

- **Isabelle Perret**, High-Level Expert in Integrated Maritime Policy, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture, France (ASC Atlantic Presidency & French National Coordinator of the Greater North Sea Basin Initiative (GNSBI))
- **Orlando Costa**, Head of Cooperation Unit, Directorate General for Maritime Policy, Portugal (WestMED Portuguese Co-presidency)
- **Grigore Stratulat**, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Moldova (National Coordinator for Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea)
- **Rory O'Leary**, Irish Country Co-ordinator for Greater North Sea Basin Initiative (GNSBI) & Head of Function for Marine Planning Policy)
- **Olga Mashkina**, Coordinator EU4Ocean Coalition
- Rui Azevedo, Blue Strategic Consultant, Forum Oceano
- **Christos Economou**, Head of Unit Sea basin strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security, DG MARE

## Key outcomes:

- Key challenges identified with regards to the cooperation between the Atlantic, WestMED, Black Sea and GNSBI consist of addressing diverse regional needs and priorities, and coordinating across different Sea Basin Strategies to ensure cohesive and effective collaboration.
- Cooperation is important to accomplish synergies between sea basins to tackle shared challenges and promote sustainable development across all sea basins.
- EU4Ocean consists of successful example of cross sea basin cooperation on ocean literacy and blue skills.

# Parallel hackathons/workshops on future projects ideas

This slot included two parallel hackathons with a thematic focus on synergies between AAP 2.0 Pillars. Specifically:

- **Hackathon 1:** Pillar I - Ports as gateways and hubs for the blue economy & Pillar IV - Healthy Oceans and Resilient Coasts
- **Hackathon 2:** Pillar II - Blue skills and ocean literacy & Pillar III - Marine Renewable Energy

## *Hackathon 1:*

Scene setting by:

- **Gerardo González**, Head of Projects and Works Department, Port of Vigo (Representative Pillar I Coordinator)
- **Eduardo Silva**, Coordinator of the TEC4SEA platform at INESC TEC (Pillar IV Coordinator)

## *Hackathon 2:*

Scene setting by:

- **Céline Liret**, Scientific Director - Partnerships and International Relations at Océanopolis (Pillar II Coordinator)
- **Emer Dennehy**, Programme Manager for Offshore Renewable Energy with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (Pillar III Coordinator)

Participants engaged in discussions and brainstorming sessions, resulting in the identification and prioritization of key project ideas focused on synergies between AAP 2.0 Pillars, such as ports as blue economy hubs, healthy oceans, blue skills, ocean literacy, and marine renewable energy.

The session facilitated the exchange of diverse perspectives and experiences, fostering greater cooperation among participants and setting the stage for future collaborative projects within the Atlantic region.

# Atlantic Project Awards

The winners of the Atlantic Project Awards 2024 were announced during the ASPC on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November. This year, six awards were granted as a recognition of the projects' outstanding performance, in the following five award categories, which are in line with the thematic pillars of the AAP 2.0

## Pillars of the AAP 2.0

## Awards categories

## Funding sources

## Winners

*Pillar I - Ports as gateways and hubs for the blue economy*

**Atlantic Ports and Blue Economy**

*Interreg Atlantic Area 2021-2027*



**HYDEA** - Boosting the hydrogen transition in the Atlantic Area ports

*Pillar II - Blue skills and ocean literacy*

**Blue Skills and Ocean Literacy**

*Interreg Atlantic Area 2021-2027*



**BLUESKILLING INNOVATION** - Upskilling workers in the Atlantic shipbuilding and maritime tech industry to boost industrial competitiveness, sustainability and blue innovation

*Pillar III - Marine Renewable Energy*

**Marine Renewable Energy**

*EMFAF*



**The FLORA Ocean Station** - developing an industrial-scale prototype of an ocean station with renewable energy generation and oceanographic capabilities

*Pillar IV - Healthy Oceans and Resilient Coasts*

**Healthy Oceans and Resilient Coasts**

*EU Mission Ocean (Horizon-Miss-2022-Ocean-01)*



**C-FAARER** - Community driven Farming for the Atlantic and Arctic Sea basins through REgeneRative aquaculture

*EMFAF*



**MSP-OR** – Advancing Maritime Spatial Planning in Outermost Regions

**International Cooperation**

*EU Mission Ocean (Horizon-Miss-2022-Ocean-01)*



**A-AAGORA** - Blueprint for Atlantic-Arctic Agora on cross-sectoral cooperation for restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems and increased climate resilience through transformative innovation



# Key takeaways of the ASPC 2024 (French Presidency conclusions)

## Cooperation Enhancement

The Atlantic Maritime Strategy (AMS) presents a significant and established opportunity for enhanced cooperation among its four member countries (IE, FR, PT, SP) as well as with other Sea Basin strategies established (WestMED, Black Sea, GNSBI).

## Local stakeholders and inclusivity

As discussed during the ASPC24, local authorities and stakeholders play a crucial role in relaying and implementing the AAP 2.0. This extensive approach aims to develop inclusivity, considering also both shores of the Atlantic and engaging more the EU outermost regions, in alignment with the Atlantic Action Plan priorities and goals.

## Synergies and collaboration

The ASPC24 was organised back-to-back (B2B) with 2 events of the Interreg Atlantic Area. This collaboration demonstrates that the synergies between AAP2.0 and Interreg Atlantic Area are well-established and can be further developed for future project initiatives, as showcased by the ASPC24 workshop/hackathon sessions organised.

## Assessing and Adapting AAP 2.0

The assessing of the AAP 2.0 progress in order to consider its revision/adaptation with all the ongoing initiatives (Mission Ocean, Ocean pact etc.) is to be considered so as to ensure its full operationalization for the benefits of the all Atlantic communities.



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## For more information:

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*The Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference 2024 was organized by the Atlantic Assistance Mechanism together with the French Presidency of the ASC, CINEA and DG MARE.*

