



Activity Report 2022-2023

April 2024

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Atlantis Consulting S.A.

Provides **high level consulting services** by supporting clients from the private and public sector to finance their business plans. In its **31 years of operation**, Atlantis Consulting has collaborated with all kinds of high technology, industry and tourism enterprises. Its clients include companies listed on the NASDAQ, AIM, Athens Stock Exchange, thousands of small and medium-sized enterprises, a significant number of startups and non-profit organizations. Similarly, in the public and in the wider public sector, Atlantis Consulting provides evaluation of research services, science and technology policy assessment, innovation management and funding, planning and implementation of acceleration and pre-training programs for start uppers. Its clientele includes institutions such as the European Commission, the Greek Government, as well as many foreign governments, prefectures, districts, municipalities, chambers, professional associations, and others.





Atlantis provides for 31 years expert consultancy on business planning, financing & market acceleration and has gained significant experience in the management and implementation of regional/national/international/EU funded projects in the fields of sustainable tourism development, valorization of underwater UCH, ICT research, innovation policy, investment readiness, innovative financing (e.g. Business Angels Networks), green growth and energy efficiency, evaluation and impact assessments for public and private organizations.

Angelos Manglis

Founder



Angelos Manglis, Founder of Atlantis Consulting S.A., is an advanced open water technical diver and instructor specialized in Deep Diving, Enriched Air, Emergency Oxygen Provision, Wreck Diving, Digital Underwater Photography etc. an experienced sailor as he has participated in many underwater expeditions, and a solid supporter of maintaining in situ UCH and operating Accessible UCH Sites. With more than 30 years of consulting experience, he has developed a large portfolio of HiTech/IT Startups and Industrial SME's, along

with strong working relationships with innovation policy makers internationally. He is a graduate from the Civil Engineering department of the Democritus University of Thrace and holds a MSc in "Technical Change & Industrial Strategy" from PREST Institute of the University of Manchester. He is also a member of the Hellenic Marine Archaeology Institute.

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CEO & President



Grigorios Kalamakidis is the President and CEO of Atlantis Consulting S.A. He is a graduate from the Electrical Engineering department of the Democritus University of Thrace and holds a MSc in Power Electronics from the University of Bradford in the UK. He has more than 30years experience in strategic design, industrial IT applications, technology transfer, developing cooperation between enterprises, and preparing and overseeing the implementation of business plans. For several years, he has served as a consultant for the Greek General

Secretariat of Research and Technology. He is a member of five of EU's Directorates-General, a member of the international register of the Cypriot Institute of Technology, a member of the register of the Greek Ministry of Development, etc.

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our Company

Departments and services

Research and Development

- ❖ Implementation and project management of European projects aiming in Blue Growth and promotion of Underwater Cultural Heritage.
- ❖ Proposal submission of several EU projects funding by Horizon, Interreg, EASME, EMFAF etc.
- ❖ Running of the www.etender.gr platform.
- ❖ Social networks and value-added services.

Innovation Management and Finance

- ❖ Evaluation of research.
- ❖ Monitoring of evaluation.
- ❖ Implementation of Blue Economy & Blue Technologies development projects.
- ❖ Science and Technology and Innovation policies.

Deals

- ❖ Financial support to enterprises through venture capitalists, business angels, funds etc.
- ❖ Market research.
- ❖ Feasibility and viability studies.
- ❖ Management and coordination of Acceleration programs.
- ❖ Consulting and guidance for businesses.
- ❖ Support to start-ups to achieve investment readiness.
- ❖ Access to pre-seed & seed finance.
- ❖ Business plan development.
- ❖ Evaluation – Sustainability plan preparation.
- ❖ Financial planning, management, and forecasting.
- ❖ Direct access to a developed network of Business Angels through Adrion BAN.

Financing of Investment

- ❖ Elaboration of business plans & investment proposals for funding under national development programmes. (Development Laws, NSRF, Recovery and Resilience Facility - Greek National Recovery and Resilience Plan etc.)
- ❖ Preparation and submission of thousands of business proposals under national development programmes. (Development Laws, NSRF, Recovery and Resilience Facility - Greek National Recovery and Resilience Plan etc.)
- ❖ Elaboration of research project submitted proposals for funding.

Blue Growth

Atlantis Consulting has vast experience in the coordination and participation in international R&I projects focused on the protection, preservation and promotion of Underwater Cultural and Natural Heritage (UCNH) in the Mediterranean Sea (MED), the development of smart, green and sustainable tourism and enhancement of Blue Growth, with main goal the facilitation of responsible accessibility of UCH sites and the protection of the marine environment. Atlantis has developed a model for the accessibility of UCH that is replicable in the MED and other areas with similar characteristics, which developed through collaboration with different bodies in the MED and aims to provide accessibility to UCH for all and a roadmap and the tools for its replicability. Atlantis has also been involved in projects to support the development of blue and smart cross-sectoral skills to meet the evolving needs in the labor market of Blue Economy and of protection and promotion of Underwater Cultural and Natural Heritage in the MED, in the business development and professional recognition of scientific diving, as well as promoted participatory citizen's science and crowd source volunteering initiatives in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Greece, the development and testing of underwater innovative technologies to assist in underwater survey and documentation, and the promotion of UCH under different thematic approaches such as art, science, and other current societal issues.



Since 2006, Atlantis by coordinating and participating in several European/MED projects (i.e. BLUEMED(2016), Lab4Dive(2017), UCRCA(2017), MAGNA(2018), DiveSafe(2019), Science Diver(2019), MeDryDive(2019), MAREBOX(2020), BLUEMED Plus(2021), Creamare(2022), BCThubs(2023), Art4Sea(2023), ecoRoute(2023), uBlueTec(2023), NERITES(2024), TOURAL(2024) etc.) has contributed significantly to tangible achievements such as:

- ❖ The characterization as accessible historic wrecks of the Greek seas (currently about ten, including four in Alonissos and three in Western Pagasitikos). Most shipwrecks belong to vessels of medieval and ancient times.
- ❖ The development of technologies, which support the exploitation of the Underwater Heritage (and natural) Wealth of the Mediterranean, such as digitization for the creation of 3D models of reconstruction Underwater Archaeological Sites, the use of new technologies for the recording of marine archaeological sites, the use of new technologies for recording archaeological research, virtual (VR/AR), augmented tours, virtual diving applications, open marine archaeological research workshops, educational underwater archaeological games also called "serious games" etc.

- ❖ Improvement of the Greek and European institutional framework on issues such as the accessibility to the archaeological sites, the funding of the archaeological research and the integration of the Marine Spatial Planning Marine Archaeological Sites.
- ❖ Submission of proposals for the operation of the accessibility of underwater archaeological sites at a national level through their integration in European and National funding programs, in Regional Operational Plans etc.
- ❖ Consolidation, at local and national level, of the idea that the protection of the underwater archaeological wealth presupposes the studied tourism and educational exploitation primarily for the benefit of the local communities and always having as a basis the principles of sustainable development.

Atlantis Consulting Projects



BlueMed
bluemed.interreg-med.eu



ScienceDiver
sciencediver.eu



DiveSafe
divesafe.eu



MeDryDive
medrydive.eu



ecoRoute
ecoroute.eu



Lab4Dive
lab4dive.gr



Creamare
creamare.eu



uBlueTec
ubluetec.eu



BCThubs
bcthubs.eu



ART4SEA
art4sea.eu



MAGNA
sailinhistory.eu



TOURAL
toural-project.eu



MareBox
marebox.eu



TECTONIC
tectonicproject.eu



NERITES
nerites.eu

SUNBIO

our EU projects



Multidimensional model of tourism verticals driving the sustainable balanced growth among rural & remote grids and urban clusters of rural regions, fostering macro-regional cooperation

2024 is the starting year of the TOURAL project. The Kick-Off Meeting of TOURAL project took place in CERTH premises between 22nd and 23rd of February 2024. The meeting was hybrid, with the partners of the project participating both in presence and virtually and planning the project's first steps and activities.



TOURAL is implemented in the framework of Horizon Europe. TOURAL focuses on **creative & cultural tourism** as drivers for sustainable development, offering an empowered regional cooperation and integrated local value-chains. TOURAL proposes a model to **support tourism development of participating rural regions**, balancing the growth of urban clusters. The approach of the project is multi-dimensional in terms of addressing complementary tourism sectors (Underwater Cultural and Natural Heritage, Cultural and Creative Tourism, Cultural and Scientific Tourism). The main goal of the project is the **co-creation of business models and tourism products, as well as the planning and business development with intergraded value-chains**. The scope of interventions includes **3 regions from the Adriatic-Ionian Sea** (Greece, Italy, Croatia) and **3 regions from the Black Sea** (Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine).

Methodology

TOURAL aims to build in the participating sea-basins/ macro-regions (i.e. Adriatic-Ionian and Black Sea), a novel tourism model for UCCST, addressing interrelated services and concepts/structures, offering a multidimensional, multi-objective, creative, engaging and participatory experience (i.e. tourism offerings / services) to the macro-regions tourists. To this end, TOURAL will address common

challenges across rural regions in two sea-basins/macro-regions: by fostering policy making and business planning/financing, designing & planning of tourism offerings & value-propositions, leveraging at the same time on the regions' unique assets (each participating rural region on their own merits) and considering the requirements of the local stakeholders and communities. A fundamental concept of TOURAL is the “co-work” (co-design/ co-creation/ co-validation) integrating the creativity, the viewpoints, the expectations and the requirements of the regional stakeholders (authorities, operators, businesses) and communities. For this reason, at this stage, TOURAL can provide an initial point of reference of envisaged tourism offerings/ services per targeted UCCST niche sector; these will be analysed, updated and elaborated in detail, during the project implementation, mobilizing “co-work” processes with stakeholders and communities in each region.

The implementation approach consists of 4 interrelated phases:

Phase 1: Analysis of CCT macro-regional cooperation, policy pathways, co-“work” & stakeholders engagement: Phase 1 prepares the grounds for subsequent implementation work: analysis of CCT, of policy instruments, strategies, funded projects and stakeholders' cooperation at regional/macro-regional levels; establishment of co-work structures & processes, and stakeholders' engagement; policy pathways and financing opportunities.

Phase 2: Design & Implementation: Phase 2 includes the design of **TOURAL UCCST model**, Action Plan & individualization on project sites, as well as digital tools development.

Phase 3: Small-Scale Demonstration & Validation: Phase 3 focuses on the application and validation of TOURAL models (generic and individualized) and tools at real-life conditions for project regions.

Pilot Sites

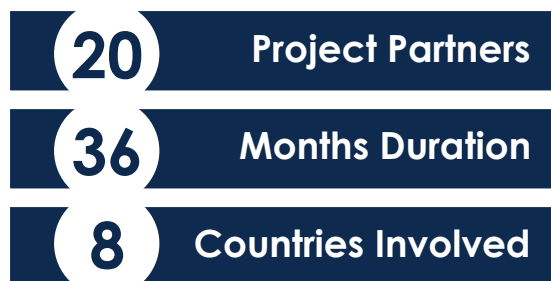
TOURAL will implement and validate the envisioned UCCST model, across 6 different, yet complementary, real-life regional pilot sites, belonging to 2 macro-regions.

1. **North Sporades rural and remote region, Greece, part of Adriatic-Ionian macro-region**
2. **Province of Teramo, Italy**
3. **Village Šimuni, Island of Pag, Croatia**
4. **Nessebar, Bulgaria**
5. **Danube Delta LAG (Tulcea Country), Sulina**
6. **Kutsurub rural region, Mykolaiv oblast, Ukraine**

Expected Outcomes

- Increase the macro-regional cultural tourism cooperation to help the socioeconomic development of rural and remote areas.
- Develop cultural tourism and creative tourism business models for rural and remote areas to increase sustainable job opportunities and investments.
- Promote inclusive and sustainable cultural and creative tourism that fosters social inclusion and engagement, respects need of local communities, the heritage and capacity of rural and remote areas.

Project Overview



Consortium



Funded by the European Union

HORIZON-CL2-2023-HERITAGE-01-05

Funding from the Horizon Europe Program of the European Union



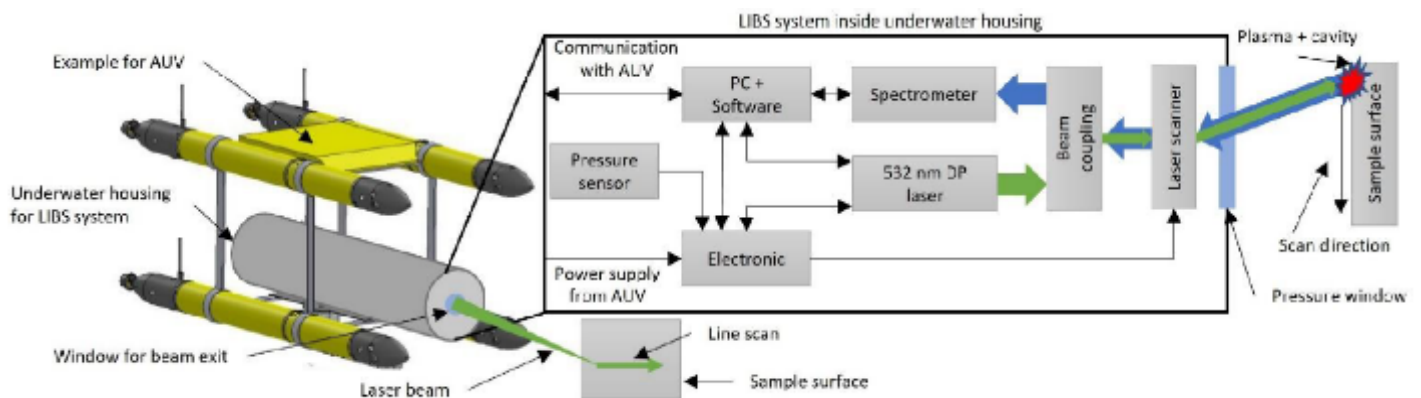
Systematic autonomous remote surveying of underwater cultural heritage monuments and artefacts using non-destructive, cost-effective and transportable platform

2024 is the starting year of the NERITES project. The Kick-Off Meeting of TOURAL project took place in Laser Zentrum Hannover (LZH) premises between 13th and 14th of February 2024 with all the partners of the project attending the meeting.



NERITES is implemented in the context of Horizon Europe. The project's target is the use of autonomous platforms for **remote monitoring and chemical mapping of Underwater Heritage Sites**, such as AUVs (Autonomous Underwater Vehicles), smart BUOYs and ROVs (Remote Operated Vehicles). A swarm of self-coordinated AUVs will be responsible to monitor, survey and scan the heritage sites for detecting/identifying and monitor degradation, state of the Underwater surrounding site, possible intervention actions for alarming conditions

etc. AUVs will communicate with the base (BUOY), which is responsible to collect and analyze deeply AUVs information thus providing enhanced site situation awareness insights to the external human supervisor/user. Furthermore, the BUOY will be equipped with renewable solar collectors to ensure continuous power availability and reduced mission's footprint, enough to support the overall mission energy needs. The user will be located in a remote monitoring station, onshore, to allow periodic mission life cycle management and general overview of the whole system situation based on real-time visual analytic mechanisms. The project's total budget amounts to 3.994.750€ and its duration is 36 months.



Left: Schematic representation of the LIBS system on the AUV | Right: Structure of the LIBS system inside the underwater housing

Expected Outcomes

NERITES' results will allow the remote monitoring of UCH monuments, buildings and artefacts. The UCH sites will be reached digitally through the development of an Autonomous Remote Sensing Platform (ARSP) with sophisticated and effective operational capacities. The state of degradation will be examined by measuring in-situ and on-site certain common metals UW (Pb, Fe, Zn and Cu) found in UCH sites to examine potential metal release over time. Additionally, the evaluation of structural integrity using ultrasonic sensors will take place. Key elements such as social inclusion, engagement, raising awareness and increasing the sense of belonging are included in NERITES implementation plan in a well-designed and immersive way.

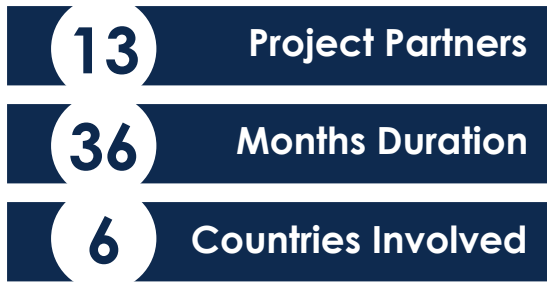
The solutions, that will be implemented during the project, include both innovative scientific and engineering measurements and data. **In-situ and on-site monitoring of inorganic and organic pollutants** (heavy metals such as Pb, Zn, Cu, and Fe, pesticides, HCs, herbicides) will take place in parallel with the evaluation and monitoring for UW buildings/monuments to assess and evaluate: (a) the level of pressure from pollution (i.e. from nearby solid waste and/or wastewater treatment facilities, municipal runoffs, industrial pollution etc.) and (b) the effectiveness of the previous interventions. The developed Autonomous Remote Sensing Platform will underpin the carbon and environmental footprint decrease supporting a greener and cost-effective strategy to be formulated regarding the conservation of UCH sites. The results are expected to have a positive societal impact from the citizens' pressure to local/regional authorities for zero-waste and circular economy policies.

Expected Impact

NERITES' results will have a multidimensional positive effect in the reliable and safe monitoring of UCH monuments, buildings and artefacts. NERITES will deliver a solution that will promote and support UCH and will measure more than 12 metals in-situ UCH environments and improve the level of accuracy of these measurements by decreasing Carbon Footprint. NERITES will develop tools for alerting for emergency conditions related to structural integrity of UCH buildings/artifacts and also will contribute to capitalization of the Autonomous Remote Sensing Platform (ARSP) with the co-operation of CCI industries.

The ambition in NERITES requires a multidisciplinary approach to realize the technology. However, this is not limited to scientific and engineering disciplines. NERITES is expected to reach and affect the sense of belonging, **raise awareness with immersive material to >200.000 citizens**, contributing also to increased participation in volunteering events and social inclusion. Another positive impact will be the increase in the number of high-quality jobs, mitigating in this way the brain-drain. Finally, a sector that will also realise the positive impact is the UW cultural tourism sector, supporting in this way the greener societal shift and unfolding the potential for cultural growth. NERITES brings the future with the development of innovative technologies, focusing on remote sensing and chemical measurements, autonomous sophisticated platforms, AUVs, advanced image processing and AI assisted software development for Underwater Cultural Heritage buildings, monuments and artifacts. enriching the capacity and allow the integration of these technologies to other sectors, encompassing synergies and set the foundations for more progress.

Project Overview



Consortium



HORIZON CL2-2023-HERITAGE-01-01
Funding from the Horizon Europe Program
of the European Union



Multidimensional and integrated approach fostering smart underwater cultural and nature tourism offer in Outermost Regions

2023 was the starting year of the **ecoRoute** project. On October 31, 2023, the ecoRoute project officially started, with the first Kick-off Meeting, carried on in Atlantis Consulting premises in Thessaloniki. Atlantis Consulting is the coordinator of this project, which is implemented under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF).



The main objectives of the project are the design and implementation of a multidimensional approach fostering **smart Underwater Cultural and National Tourism**, enabling their transformation to **smart UCNT destinations**, with a new ecological focus that draws on natural and cultural resources, diversifying and developing smart UCNT services for the benefit of both residents and visitors.

ecoRoute expected outcomes and impacts include, among others, the addressing of seasonality into tourism planning, extending the tourism season **from 6 to almost 12 months**, and the support of existing tourism value chains to bloom and new ones to emerge.

The total budget of the project amounts 1.176.466€ and its duration is 30 months. The ecoRoute partners are Atlantis Consulting, Aix-Marseille University, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Deep Turtle Plongee, Observatorio do Mar dos Acores, Associacao de Turismo Sustentavel do Faial Ilhua Azul, Centro de Estudos de Arqueologia Moderna e Contemporanea Associacao (CEAM), Association Archeologie Petites Antilles (AAPA) and EnaliaTec, spin-off company of CERTH and Atlantis Consulting.

UCNT Capacity building, Strategies, Policy Pathways & Business environment for Regions

ecoRoute will develop comprehensive regional strategies taking account of economic, environmental & social sustainability of tourism. These strategies will be designed for the sustainability (environment, social/cultural, economic) in SCNT of the ecoRoute Regions, analyzing and taking also into account any relevant **Smart Specialization Strategies (S3)** and **green Action Plans for deploying smart UCNT products**.

ecoRoute UCNH sites in participating EU outermost Regions

Azores

Azores Underwater Cultural Heritage (UWCH) has been distinguished with the UNESCO label "European Heritage Site" which recognizes the importance of UWCH of Azores. Azores is also 1st archipelago in the world internationally certified as "Sustainable Destination" by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council. Despite of its significant UWCH, Azores so far is a nature tourism destination, a fact that reveals the strategic importance of ecoRoute for Azores.

The focus of ecoRoute will be on the **"Main" shipwreck** (5m depth) sunk in the bay of Porto Pim, with the entire vessel hull having been preserved, with several beacons. "Main" was an English steamer capsized in 1892 with a fire on board. It constitutes the heritage diving site of excellence on the Faial Island, and it easily accessible from the coast.

Madeira

Around 50% of Madeira archipelago is nature reserve. Thanks to the work of CEAM (ecoRoute partner), several records of UW Archaeological Cultural Patrimonial (shipwrecks and structures) have been identified and documented, many of them located in these nature reserves. UW itineraries have been developed, providing the fabric for content and VR/AR Apps to be used in the ecoRoute KAC in Madeira for making the shipwrecks accessible to non-divers. Madeira is a touristic destination, with nature & culture being the main tourism attractions.

The focus of ecoRoute will be on the **shipwreck "Prompt"**, located 350 meters south of Funchal harbour (depth 32 m), inside the marine eco-park. It sunk in 1929, carrying fresh water to the Porto Santo habitants. The wreck is very important for the history of Madeira, as it served as a cabotage ship around the island, transporting people & goods, or drinkable water (towards end of its life). Today, the ship acts as an artificial reef, known to attract a wide variety of marine biodiversity, including groupers, moray eels, etc.

Martinique

Martinique belongs to the Antilles Sea basin, being part of the Lesser Antilles Island chain in the eastern Caribbean Sea. Despite of being the smallest of the French overseas territories, Martinique has one of the highest population densities in the Antilles. Its culture reflects a distinctive blend of French and West Indian influences, while its economy is typically Caribbean, depending heavily on a few agricultural products and mainly on tourism. Martinique has a remarkable biodiversity compared to its small area.

That's why the preservation of endemic flowers, shrubs and animals, along with the respect for sea and nature are part of a proactive and growing eco-responsible approach by all local stakeholders. A continuously increasing number of local dive centres (>20) are offering "responsible" and eco-friendly underwater actions without disturbing the ecosystem. On land, eco-tourism is becoming increasingly important, as tourism business respect biodiversity aspects. Notably, Martinique has been recognised as hotspot of Biodiversity (reserve Mondial of Biodiversity), and all of its marine area is under the control of the Parc Naturel Marin de Martinique (i.e., Associated partner in ecoRoute) for monitoring activities and resources.

The focus of ecoRoute will be on two UCNH sites (north & south):

1. **Shipwrecks of "St Pierre" and surroundings (NORTH).** St Pierre is a tourism hotspot because of old town ruins linked to 1902 Mount Pelée eruption. Most of the 1902's wrecks of St Pierre are easily accessed (close to the shore) but quite deep (30-40 m), such as: "Roraima" a 110 m propeller cargo (40 m), "Biscaye" a 3-masts (30 m), "Diamant" a passengers steam ship (25 m), and "Tamaya" a steal hull sailing ship - they sunk during 1902's Mount Pelée eruption. In the surroundings, valuable are the shipwrecks of "Amélie" (8m depth) from 1902 (but not sunk due to the Pelée eruption), and "Cygne" (6 m) from 1809. The sites are biodiversity hotspots thanks to the submarine life attracted by the wrecks.
2. **Shipwreck of "Nahoon" and surroundings (SOUTH).** Represent a unique combination of amazing natural and cultural heritage, with incomparable biodiversity of aquatic fauna and flora with optimum visibility and diving spots, coupled with impressive shipwrecks and the famous "Diamond Rock". Coastal areas in the south demonstrate coral sand and incredible transparency of the water. Central is the village of Anses d'Arlets with its 5 world famous creeks (Grande Anse, the city, Petite Anse, Anse Dufour and Anse Noire). The village was recently voted the 2nd most beautiful village in France; notably, with sea-turtles have taken up residence all year round! The area is a diving hotspot, having a share of 85-90% of the dives in Martinique. Therefore, it is essential for ecoRoute to implement local interventions which protect the environment and biodiversity, while boosting the regional blue economy. Highlights: The wreck of "Nahoon" (35 m depth), which was sunk voluntarily 25 years ago to become an artificial reef. And the "Diamond Rock", with its large fault open to all levels of divers. This majestic rock, a real postcard, is an ornithological reserve sheltering the most varied species of birds. Therefore, it is essential for ecoRoute to implement local interventions which protect the environment and biodiversity, while boosting the regional blue economy.

Local Interventions supporting Smart Tourism integrated in Green/ Circular Economy

Focused interventions will be designed to be applied in the ecoRoute Regions, fostering smart tourism integrated in circular economy, promoting preservation & protection of natural & cultural resources and marine biodiversity whilst reducing pollution & waste production, turning waste into a resource. Such interventions include: a) Plastic waste exploitation, Social Engagement Campaigns and Knowledge Awareness Centers (KACs), b) Promotion of green/circular practices for managing ecoRoute UCNH sites and diving operations, c) Measures for promoting biodiversity in participating Regions and d) Methods and support to tourism businesses for substantiating their environmental

footprint through Product Environmental Footprint methods (PEF) for typical tourism products and services.

Smart eco-tourism packages for ecoRoute Regions and link them under a Route

ecoRoute will design **smart ecotourism packages** for the participating ecoRoute Regions, promoting their cultural, natural and biodiversity assets, as well as their smart/green/circular tourism-destination characteristics. The design of the packages will consider multiple factors in terms of variations and target group profiles (youth, romance, families, adventure, etc.), regional strengths/weaknesses (climate, transport, cost efficiency, cultural/natural/biodiversity assets, diving and accessibility conditions, etc.), interests and characteristics (shipwrecks, naturalistic sites, historical value/period, etc.). Special attention will be paid to maximize the diversification of the ecoRoute packages in the competitive maritime tourism market, focusing on reducing the seasonal dependence of the offerings (i.e. diving is possible almost 12 months in the MED sea and in ecoRoute Regions); addressing the challenge of seasonality into tourism planning and reducing seasonality impacts on the environment, extending the touristic period well-beyond the wings of the high-season, and thus contributing to financial and employment sustainability of the tourism sector and the local economies in the ecoRoute Regions.

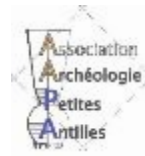
ecoRoute will also design and test an **Accessible Underwater Cultural & Natural Heritage (UCNH) Route** as a **multidestination eco-tourism (MDET) product**, linking the participating Outermost Regions with other EU Regions offering UCNT opportunities. ecoRoute will use participatory design approaches (i.e. with relevant stakeholders in the loop) and test the eco-tourism packages and the MDET product involving a multidisciplinary team of regional stakeholders and domain experts. Furthermore, the MDET product will be supported by an innovative WEB/Mobile ICT service enabling route-planning of a “visit-route” for tourists (i.e. smart profiling according to diversified tourism packages in O5 above) and enabling destination-management for the regional tourism stakeholders and policy makers. This service will be coupled with the augmented (existing) “[MedDiveInThePast](#)” web platform, enriched with **new destinations** from ecoRoute Regions.

Project Overview

- 9** Project Partners
- 30** Months Duration
- 6** Countries Involved

1.17M
Total Budget

Consortium



Co-funded by
the European Union

EMFAF-2023-PIA-FLAGSHIP

Funding from the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) of the European Union



Training framework on Underwater Tecs as key enabler for blue careers development

2023 was also the starting year of the **uBlueTec** project which is implemented under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF). The Kick-Off Meeting of uBlueTec project took place in Aix-Marseille University on Wednesday 19th of October 2023. The meeting was hybrid, with members of Atlantis participating both in presence and virtually. Representatives of all partners participated in the meeting, planning the project's first steps and having a fruitful collaboration.

This project emphasizes on the **creation and dissemination of underwater technologies**, offering **digital/blue courses and skillsets** to achieve a sustainable and decreased carbon footprint Blue Economy. uBlueTec is based on a participatory approach with durable partnerships among universities, VET providers, clusters and SMEs; all active members of blue economy value networks. During the project, among others, a dedicated platform will be created to mitigate the existing skill gap and the respective matchmaking in blue jobs and cooperations of the blue sector.

Main objectives of the project:

- Development of educational material and curriculum, linked to micro-credentials, and enabling skills-building in state-of-the-art UW technologies from a green/digital perspective.
- Piloting the developed assets at HE & VET levels.
- Establishment of a Hub on UW Tecs, as a permanent capacity-building structure nurturing the long-lasting collaboration of the involved stakeholders.
- Deployment of recruitment platform for blue jobs offering online courses and facilitating demand-supply matching between current/future labor force and industries, while intelligently identifying and publishing the skills-gap at regional-national-EU levels.
- Attraction of young talents in terms of Career Days and Entrepreneurial Bootcamps.

Educational material, Curriculum & Piloting

The overall scope of uBlueTec is to boost the Blue Economy sector with emphasis in maritime and underwater technologies initially by supporting the upskilling and reskilling of the labor workforce and to provide the skills for the young and talented to follow a career path that is reliable with great potential. The upskilling and reskilling from the uBlueTec's courses are expected to upgrade the respective SMEs allowing them to be more competitive and in line with the current market needs. Similarly, public organizations will not be behind the currents trends and technological advances that are game-changing.

uBlueTec's Approach

uBlueTec's approach is holistic and multidimensional including end-to-end strategies to allow not only the appropriate market/scientific/technological driven skill uptake, but to also provide a **marketplace**

regarding maritime and underwater technologies where the needs of the labor workforce (experienced as well as young and talented) will meet with market actors as well as the respective public organizations. Moreover, uBlueTec encompasses all the tools provided from the partners' institutional support to integrate the outcomes of the project into new more advanced curricula, aligned with the project's and the calls scope and objectives.

uBlueTec's Methodology

The project's methodology comprises of 3 stages:

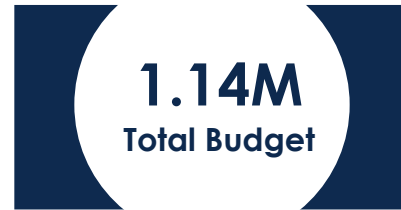
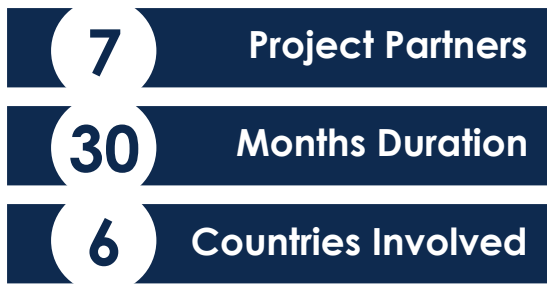
- **Stage 1.** Development of the content and educational material of the courses.
- **Stage 2.** Dedicated platform for (but not limited to) maritime and underwater technologies and the establishment of an UW Tecs Hub.
- **Stage 3.** Liaison and cooperation with other relative EU projects, initiatives, stakeholders and building long lasting networks of the quadruple helix.

uBlueTec's aim is to build bonds with other partners (both private and public as well as individual research professionals) to leverage the impact of the project and to support the continuation and the sustainability of the project's outcomes. To this end, an in-person approach will be followed starting from the broad network of partners who co-operated or still co-operating with the project's partners in other projects. This action alone reaches more than 150 organizations (both private and public as well as NGOs). Most of them are related with similar EU's projects and interventions. For other entities and organizations that have not co-operated with the project partners in the past, direct communications will take place to communicate the potential for the fields of Blue Economy, with emphasis initially in maritime and underwater technologies. Having started the preparatory actions for the establishment of the UW Tecs Hub, an appropriate infrastructure will be on the way to allow the hosting of all the interested stakeholders. Important synergies from this action are expected to take place. It must be also underlined, that recently, a Horizon Europe project started entitled BCThubs: Blue Culture Technology Excellence Hubs in EU Widening Member States. ATL and members of University of Calabria are partners of this project and strong support and know how is expected to be obtained as well as the potential for introducing a newly established UW Tecs Hub based on uBlueTec efforts/partners to broader cooperations and alliances with all the positive aspects of such an action to be capitalized accordingly.

UW Tecs Hub, Recruitment and Blue Career Development

Best practices on UW technologies will be identified through the contribution of partner networks particularly focusing on companies that participated in research projects, in events on underwater technologies and filed relevant patents. A workshop will be organized in each of the countries involved. They will be structured in 2 parts: during the first part experts in the field will be interviewed, during the second part there will be a discussion on skill gaps.

Project Overview



Consortium



Co-funded by
the European Union

EMFAF-2023-BlueCareers

Funding from the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) of the European Union



Inspiring change
for a healthy ocean



Melting Art, Creativity and Marine Sciences to foster Ocean Literacy in the Mediterranean area

2023 was also the starting year of the **ART4SEA** project. Atlantis Consulting S.A. participates in this project, which is implemented under the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), under the Creativity, Citizens, EU values and Joint operations topic, as a Creative Europe Programme. The Kick-off meeting took place in Cosenza, Italy, on 1st of March 2023, at the Executive Center of BCC Mediocrati in Rende.



The ART4SEA project aims at combining art, creativity, science, and technology to raise public awareness towards a greater respect for marine environment. Ocean health is the focus of the decade 2021-2030 which has been proclaimed the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Project consortium includes 3D Research (IT), Atlantis Consulting (GR), IWorld (IT), Sebastiano Tusa Foundation (IT), DAN Europe (MT), Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (ES) and the municipality of Vlora (AL).

ART4SEA will mix and match modes of co-production, mentoring, in-person and distance training, striking an appropriate balance between the need to have physical interactions and the need to reduce travel that is costly in terms of carbon footprint. **Twenty four international artists** will be selected through an open call and trained on ocean conservation, sustainable practices in art and digital technologies. **Three small islands in the Mediterranean**, Alonissos in Greece, Ustica in Italy, and Gozo in Malta, will host a distributed residency program, where artists will be inspired by the beautiful natural environments, ancient maritime traditions and direct relationships with locals to create born-digital and material artworks.

The material artworks will be integrated into the natural and architectural landscapes of the islands, thus creating an outdoor and potentially an underwater museum that could characterize Alonissos, Ustica and Gozo as beacons of ocean conservation. The artworks will be shown to the public at **three exhibitions** enlivened by workshops and other participatory initiatives. To involve the largest number of people and maximize public awareness and engagement, a virtual exhibition – usable both on the web and in the metaverse – will also be produced.

Open Call for Artists in Residence

ART4SEA launched an open call to select **24 international artists**, who will embrace the goal of inspiring a change in humanity's relationship with the ocean through their artworks. The call opened on 10th August 2023 and closed on 30th November 2023 with a significant number of **256 applications from 35 countries**.

Through this Open Call, 24 Artists have been selected, including **12 digital artists**, **9 street/urban/guerrilla/ecological/graffiti/land artists** and **3 artists producing underwater sculptures**. The 24 selected artists will be trained on ocean conservation, sustainable practices in art and digital technologies.

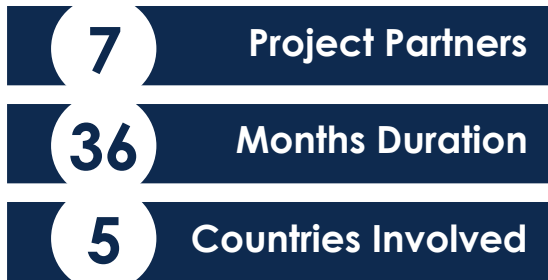
The **7 days residency program** will take place in **3 small Mediterranean islands** (Ustica in Italy, Alonissos in Greece, and Gozo in Malta), where artists will be inspired by the stunning natural environment, the old maritime traditions, and a direct connection with local populations. Artists will be encouraged to integrate their artworks with the marine, natural and architectural landscapes of the islands, thus creating an open-air and underwater museum making the three Islands a guiding light for Ocean Conservation.



Exhibitions

In **2025**, Ustica, Alonissos and Gozo will host **exhibitions** where the physical artworks will be integrated into the marine, natural and architectural landscapes, thus creating an open-air and underwater museum that will make the three islands a beacon for Ocean Conservation. The digital and digitised physical artworks will be also showcased in a virtual exhibition – accessible both on the web and the metaverse – that will be at first housed in the three islands and in the Vision Multimedia Center in Vlora, Albania. The ART4SEA project will conclude with a grand event in Ustica, during which the old part of the island will be enlivened by performances staged with the participation of the local communities, and the artworks produced throughout the residency program will be projected, thus virtually including Alonissos and Gozo in the final event.

Project Overview



Consortium



Co-funded by
the European Union

CREA-CULT-2022-COOP
managed by the European
Education and Culture
Executive Agency (EACEA)



Blue Culture Technology Excellence Hubs in EU Widening Member States

2023 was the starting year of the **BCThubs** project. On February 7, 2023, the BCThubs project officially started, with the first kick-off meeting, carried on in Larissa, Greece. Atlantis Consulting S.A. participates in this project, which is implemented under the Horizon Europe Program.



BCThubs project aspires to build **R&I capacities in the Blue Economy sector** of the participating Widening countries, focusing on Blue Culture Technologies (BCT) supporting the Underwater (UW) Cultural Heritage (CH) scientific research and tourism valorisation. Although the European seas are rich in Underwater Cultural Heritage (UWCH) sites and assets, only a few of them are exploited sustainably towards social welfare, cohesion and growth. BCThubs aims to build **BCT Excellence Hubs** supporting with new innovative solutions and products, the **sustainable protection, restoration, valorisation, management, accessibility and promotion of UWCH**. Each Excellence Hub brings together actors related to Blue Culture and UWCH, including research/academia, businesses, public sector, and societal actors (i.e., quadruple helix approach); mutually reinforcing their capacities and effectiveness towards raising the innovation excellence in sustainable Blue Economy/Culture in the respective regions; aligned with regional or national smart specialization strategies. Although the new Hubs will be scoped regionally, they will be interconnected pursuing cross-border collaborations on common strategic goals and new value chains aligned with RIS3 and other EU policies (i.e., Green Deal). The wider ambition of the project is the establishment of an EU-wide BCT Cluster that will create a formal connection among hubs, after the project.

R&I Solutions

Modelling & reconstruction of opto-acoustic seafloor DTMs/photomosaics integrating remote sensing: This activity aims at developing an innovative framework for highly detailed and high-quality 3D underwater modelling. In detail, a robotic platform will be provided capable of relying on and fusing different types of sensors information, such as vision and acoustic, but also navigational data and data from inertial sensors. Collected data will be elaborated using an integrated GIS-based software

featured by advanced data fusion and processing algorithms able to provide a uniform and coherent 3D/4D representation of the acquired scene.

BCThubs Excellence Hubs

The envisioned Excellence Hubs will provide:

- improved access to excellence for R&I actors e.g., trend watching, technology scouting, brokerage and value-chain reinforcement,
- reinforce knowledge transfer (e.g., training, secondments) and development of entrepreneurial skills (e.g., new competencies and skills for researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals in Blue Culture R&I, new business opportunities for SMEs and new employment),
- promote the uptake of innovative technologies,
- offer a paradigm of new European strategic value chain in the domain of BCT within the Blue Economy.

Greek BCT Excellence Hub

Greek hub covers the northern Greece, with the base in the Region of Thessaly.

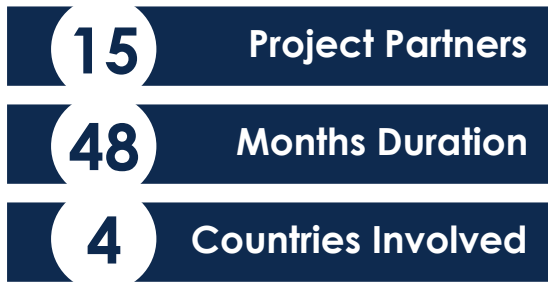
Bulgarian BCT Excellence Hub

Bulgarian hub covers eastern(Sofia)-central(Zagora)-western(Varna) Bulgaria, with centre being on Black Sea Coast.

Maltese BCT Excellence Hub

Maltese hub covers whole country, including the Gozo Island as it is in the RIS3 priorities to attract Blue Culture R&I investments.

Project Overview



Consortium



HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-04

Funding from the Horizon Europe Programme of the European Union



Funded by the European Union

CREAMARE



Linking creativity, culture and media technologies in the transnational co-production of digital interactive products for the communication of maritime and underwater cultural heritage.

2022 was the starting year of the **CREAMARE** project. Atlantis Consulting S.A. participates in this project, which is implemented under the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), under the Creativity, Citizens, EU values and Joint operations topic, as a Creative Europe Programme.

CREAMARE aims to create a trans-national and cross-sectorial collaboration framework in which cultural organizations, scientific/research bodies, creative professionals, and technology experts co-produce CC applications and media contents to communicate, disseminate and promote Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH). Simultaneously, the project is raising awareness about relevant social problems like pollution and other environmental threats that affect the oceans.

An ad-hoc web platform will be developed to facilitate the matching and collaboration among cultural organizations, creative teams, and technologies experts, providing tools dedicated to the management of data sharing, CCI projects execution, IP protection/sharing. Specific on-line and on-site training activities (for 20 cultural professionals) were organized to build the capacities of cultural institutions (2 partners + 4 external organizations selected through an open call) to autonomously create 3D models and digital contents of UCH and to use those datasets to monitor the conservation state of the cultural assets and, at the same time, to share them for the creation of digital apps addressed to communication and dissemination purposes. A residency program combined with on-line mentoring activities facilitated the co-production, engaging also 6 external creative professionals selected through an open call. The framework will be tested through the co-production of a Serious Game in which the player will be able to visit highly realistic 3D digital replicas of underwater cultural sites. During these virtual dives, the player will solve enigma and challenges thus learning about both the UCH.

On the 29th of June, CREAMARE project officially started, with the first kick-off meeting, carried on in Rende Cosenza, Italy.



Cooperation Framework

Cooperation frameworks play a critical role in the success of CCI projects, which aim to promote cultural diversity, creativity, and innovation across Europe. These frameworks bring together multiple partners from different countries and sectors to work collaboratively towards achieving common goals. By fostering partnerships and collaboration, cooperation frameworks enable project teams to pool their resources, knowledge, and expertise, and to leverage each other's strengths to achieve better outcomes than they would be able to achieve individually. They also help to promote the exchange of ideas and best practices, as well as to foster a sense of shared ownership and commitment to the project's success. In this way, cooperation frameworks are an essential tool for building strong and sustainable partnerships that can drive innovation, creativity, and cultural cooperation across Europe.

Open Call

To improve communication and raise people's awareness of several social issues that cause damage to the oceans and their inhabitants, CREAMARE involved Institutions/Organizations and Creative Professionals through Open Calls to co-produce a Serious Game focused on the ocean's health and underwater protection for future generations.

Open Call for Cultural Institutions and Organizations

The Call provided a unique opportunity for Cultural Institutions and Organizations of the whole Mediterranean area to join the CREAMARE team to promote their relevant historical or naturalistic sites by including their 3D models in the game, and to benefit from training in digital technologies, ocean conservation, and sustainable activities.

With an impressive number of applications, the CREAMARE Consortium carefully evaluated each proposal during previous project meetings and finally provided the results. CREAMARE team members had to choose only **seven institutions**.



Open Call for Creative Professionals

The CREAMARE project also involved Creative Professionals in order to co-produce a Serious Game focused on Underwater Cultural Heritage and Ocean Literacy. After thorough evaluation, the CREAMARE Consortium selected **two 3D artists, three Unity level designers** and **one Sound Designer** that will play a key role in bringing the CREAMARE Serious Game to life.



One week Residency Program in Italy

From 2nd to 7th October the six creative professionals, which were selected through the Open Call, had the opportunity to participate in the residency program in Cosenza, Italy and got involved in co-design activities for the development of the CREAMARE Serious Game.

During the residency week, the creatives worked in cooperation with experts and professionals from the Project's coordinator 3D Research, and the partners Novena, Pro-Progressione and the Italian Ministry of Culture to develop the blueprint of this amazing game, which will be completed in the next few months.

Underwater Sites

CREAMARE focuses on the selection of a few marine/underwater sites from the ones proposed by the cultural organizations/institutions that applied for the open call. The selected ones will participate in:

- training and capacity-building activities
- the co-production of the CREAMARE Serious Game through the residency and remote mentoring programs
- public activities to raise public awareness of the need to preserve marine ecosystems.

After evaluation of CREAMARE Committee, the selected sites are:

- The Alexandria Lighthouse (Pharos) in Alexandria, Egypt
- Sebastos, The Herodian harbour of Caesarea in Israel
- Urdoviza shipwreck in Black Sea coast, Bulgaria
- Letavica shipwreck in Zadar in Pag island, Croatia
- Torre Santa Sabina shipwreck in Salento, Italy
- Steamship Tihany in Mamula island, Montenegro
- Christoforos shipwreck in Skopelos island, Greece

Serious Game

The main goal of developing the initial design concept of a Serious Game is to enable the production of a game that helps stakeholders and end users to communicate, disseminate, and promote Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) and, simultaneously, raise the awareness about relevant social problems like pollution and other environmental threats that affect the oceans.

The Serious Game is focused on the selection of European UCH sites with the aim to promote them and to raise public awareness about the need to preserve both the marine CH and the ocean's ecosystems. It will provide the player with full immersion in realistic 3D replicas of Underwater Cultural Heritage sites. During these virtual dives, the player will solve puzzles and challenges, thus learning about both the UCH (shipwrecks, finds, submerged cities, ancient trade routes etc.) and the environmental threats (e.g.: oil spills from shipwrecks, ghost nets, illegal fishing, unsustainable boating practices, etc.)

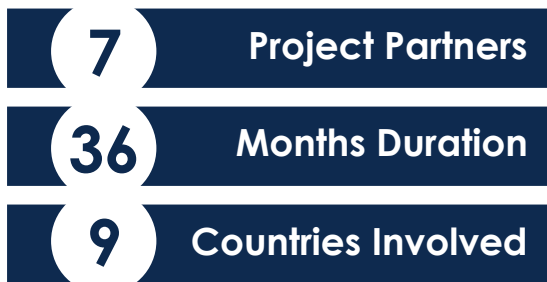
The CREAMARE Serious Game will take place in underwater levels in which the player will have to solve ecological problems and interact with cultural heritage sites through puzzles and mini games. Other parts of the game will take place in the future in a lab, as well as in a modern-day museum exhibition. The basic experience of the player in the game is to play the role of an underwater archaeologist in a museum who is tasked with solving marine pollution at eight underwater historical sites in the Mediterranean, as well as preserving their respective cultural heritage.

Main expected results

The Main expected results of CREAMARE project are:

- The definition of a collaborative approach between creative professionals and cultural institutions, using an ad hoc web platform.
- The demonstration of the framework through the co-production of a 3D serious game focused on the UCH.
- The creation of a training and capacity building package for both cultural and creative professionals.

Project Overview



Consortium



Co-funded by
the European Union

CREA-CULT-2021-COOP

managed by the European
Education and Culture
Executive Agency (EACEA)



Cross-sectoral skills for the Blue Economy labor market

2023 was the closing year of **Science Diver** project. Science Diver was implemented in the frame of European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) and its duration was 3 years. The project's overall aim is the creation of a structured/permanent collaboration framework between marine industry and education for the benefit of young people. Marine biology geology, ecology, underwater archaeology, aquaculture, environmental protection/monitoring, oceanography, oil and gas extraction are only some of the sectors that can benefit from Science Diver. The project' main objectives are to increase visibility of scientific diving as a high quality-well paid profession; to create links between academia and maritime/diving Industry; to develop a job seeking platform, providing insights on market demands (to students/higher institutions), in terms of skills (input from industry); to raise awareness of policy makers/competent organizations for the promotion, support, development and professional acknowledgement of scientific diving; to develop a sea-basin network of actors of higher education, diving associations/organizations, industry and national/European public authorities, professional associations etc.

ISO Standard

Experts of the Science Diver project participated in the development of the standards, adopted the principles of those standards during the implementation of the project activities and shared the lessons learnt from the consortium efforts as well as important own experience. The development of ISO Standards was a proof for a successful cooperation between scientific and professional organizations towards the establishment of common professional standards for scientific diving.

Common Declaration

The Common Declaration for the establishment of a common framework of Scientific Diving in Europe, adopted the context of the Science Diver International Conference in Malta, aims to promote the discussion for the establishment of a common framework in Scientific Diving in Europe and the enhancement of mobility of scientific divers. It is based on activities and studies carried out in the framework of Science Diver project and the feedback collected from key stakeholders and target audiences.

[Read Common Declaration](#)

Hybrid International Conference “Science Diver in the BLUE ECONOMY ERA”

Valletta, Malta 21 - 22 of April 2023

The International Conference “Science Diver in the Blue Economy Era” was organized as a two-day hybrid event on 20th and 21st April 2023 and was held at the Mediterranean Conference Center in Valletta, Malta.

29 speakers from different parts of the world shared their experience and exchanged views, covering specific techniques in scientific diving and showcasing practical examples from the fields of biology, archaeology and geology.

Participants discussed existing training gaps and future steps towards the elaboration of a unified training methodology in scientific diving, and the stage of adoption of guidelines, regulations and standards as well as the challenges of scientific diving in the absence of a common legal framework. The event gathered more than 100 participants - researchers, scholars, practitioners, students, government officials and stakeholders and representatives of the scientific diving community in Europe and worldwide.



Read the [Book of Abstracts](#)

Career Days



In the frame of the Science Diver research program and the launch of the ScienceDiver.jobs online platform, Atlantis organized the career day for Scientific Diving on 8th of December 2022 at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

The event brought together the participants of the 4 pilot training seminars of Science Diver as well as members of the project, in a fruitful discussion about the results of the training program as well as the challenges and prospects of scientific diving in Europe.

Training in Possidi

Atlantis organized the first Science Diver training course in Possidi, Greece which has been successfully completed in June 2022 .

The trainees were introduced to the basic principles of Photogrammetry! Once on land, the diving groups using photogrammetric processing software, created their own digital 3D models.

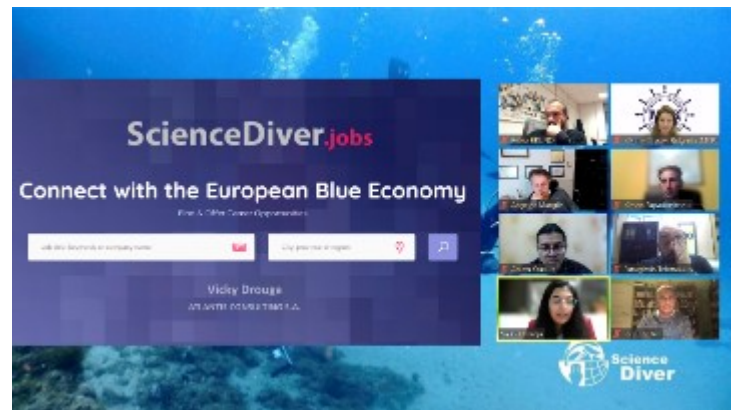


ScienceDiver.jobs

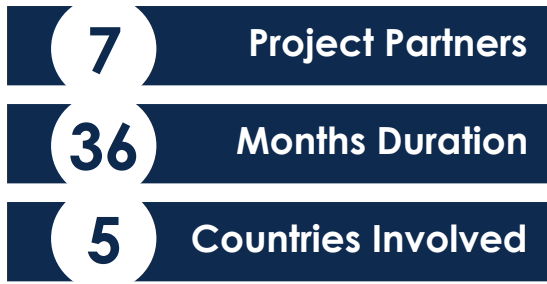
ScienceDiver.jobs is a job matchmaking platform between candidates and employers, designed to bridge the gap between scientific divers and Blue Economy sector. Candidates can upload customized CVs and employers can post customized jobs on the platform. At the same time, the platform incorporates advanced techniques for job matchmaking, considering preferences and requirements of both parties.

The process is automatic and guarantees the best possible matchmaking of candidates and jobs in the system. At the same time, sciencediver.jobs offers e-learning courses to cover skill gap, creates a continuously updating database with company profiles, job descriptions, required skills and profiles of potential employees in relevance to what Blue Tech market needs.

On 15th December, Atlantis Consulting S.A. participated in the online workshop "Education of Scientific Divers" organized as part of the European Science Diver project. The event brought together the participants of the 4 pilot training seminars of Science Diver as well as members of the project, in a fruitful discussion about the results of the training program as well as the challenges and perspectives of scientific ranking in Europe.



Project Overview



Consortium



Co-funded by
the European Union

EMFF-BlueEconomy-2018
Funding from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) of the European Union



Capitalization by transferring to new MED territories the BLUEMED multidisciplinary model for sustainable and responsible coastal tourism development

The project, submitted in the framework of the Interreg MED fifth call for modular projects (2nd call for transfer and mainstreaming projects) gives continuity and capitalize on the results gained from the previous BLUEMED project on new territories and coastal areas.

BLUEMED Plus makes use of the main results of BLUEMED where experience to produce optimal results for the realization and management of underwater archaeological trails has been achieved, by establishing innovative and good practices.

BLUEMED Plus improves the management of underwater sites of historical and archaeological interest through the creation of Knowledge Awareness Centers (KACs) in their territories, promoting new destinations as resources of the sustainable development of coastal tourism.

BLUEMED's model for the management and sustainable enhancement of the Underwater Culture Heritage has been tested at the "Capo Rizzuto" Marine Protected Area in Italy, at the Peristera shipwreck, Alonissos island in Thessaly and the submerged sites of Cavlat in Croatia. In BLUEMED PLUS, such as results and skills is being transferred to three new territories, respectively in Italy, Montenegro and Albania.

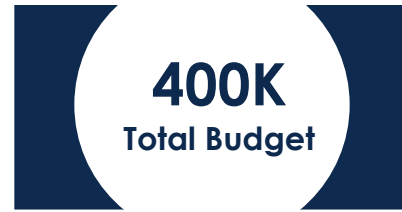
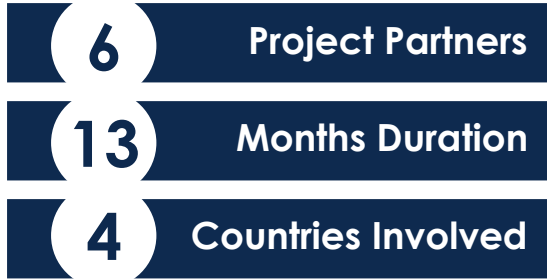
BlueMedPLUS Hybrid International Conference on the Accessibility of Underwater Cultural Heritage

Atlantis Consulting participated actively in BLUEMED PLUS International Conference on the Accessibility of Underwater Cultural Heritage. The event took place hybridly in 16th of June 2022 in Volos, Thessaly.

Atlantis Consulting was represented at the conference by Mr. Angelos Manglis and Mrs. Anastasia Fourkiotou with a presentation entitled: "The challenges for the establishment and sustainable operation of Accessible underwater Cultural heritage sites: the case of Northern Sporades islands in Greece".



Project Overview



Consortium



5th Call for Modular Projects – Interreg Europe
Funding from the Interreg Mediterranean Program (Interreg MED) of the European Union

Bottom-up Initiative



Ano Magniton Nisoi



anomagnitonnisoi.eu

Award-winning Model Innovative Development Plan

It is about a long-term effort that initiated in 2006 and has led recently to the first accessible UCH site of the Peristera ancient wreck in Alonissos, in North Sporades, open to the public from the summer 2020 onwards. It all started with the Model Innovative Development Plan “**Ano Magniton Nisoi**”, an awarded integrated intervention plan that structured on a multi-stakeholder partnership, that involved state authorities such as the Hellenic Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities, the Hellenic Organization for Tourism, the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, the Hellenic Institute of Marine Archaeological Research, etc. The plan proposed the creation for **the first time in Greece of pilot accessible underwater archaeological sites** combined with diving parks where qualified diving centers would support their operation. The main idea was to highlight the Underwater Cultural and Natural Heritage **in situ**, promoting **public accessibility**. Equally innovative was the idea of the integration of innovative technologies for the non-diving audience.

First Accessible Underwater Archaeological Site since 2020

Peristera Shipwreck in Alonissos Island, Greece



© Ministry of Culture and Sports, Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities
Photo by Matteo Collina, Università della Calabria – DIMEG

Inclusive Accessibility of UCH Sites through technology



In order for the original idea (Ano Magniton Nisoi) to become a reality, [BLUEMED \(https://bluemed.interreg-med.eu\)](https://bluemed.interreg-med.eu) project, that Atlantis Consulting has involved into, had a decisive role to **Inclusive Accessibility of Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites** in three different Mediterranean countries, including Greece.

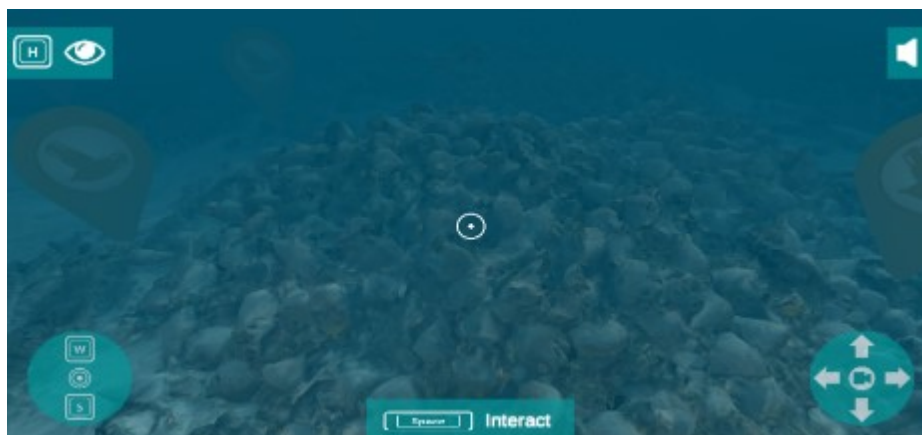
On the framework of the project, pilot activities for the operation of accessible underwater archaeological sites were implemented along with the creation of **Knowledge Awareness Centres** (in Greece and also Italy and Croatia) for visitors and dissemination of knowledge with the sound collaboration of national authorities, universities, research institutions, economic authorities and local community. **Two Knowledge Awareness Centres (KACs) in Greece, one in Alonissos and one in Amaliapolis**, were created and operated in 2020. The advantage of KACs is that since they are established in situ where the sites are also located, they enhance public awareness to locals and tourists on the value of the protection and preservation of Underwater Cultural and Natural Heritage.

At the same time, BLUEMED project has successfully developed an **online platform** (<http://meddiveinthepast.eu/web/bluemed>) that not only offers the opportunity for **virtual diving**, but also **provides archaeological information** about the project sites, the nearby diving centres and other related information about other Mediterranean UCH sites. In this context, the platform is **creating a network across the Mediterranean of Underwater Cultural Heritage Tourism Destinations**.



KAC in Alonissos

KAC in Amaliapolis



Dive Virtually: Peristera, Alonissos <http://meddiveinthepast.eu/dive-virtually-peristera>

CCI Apps

Serious Games, Virtual & Augmented Reality



Most of the projects, Atlantis involves into, aim at the promotion and protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage by raising awareness through **virtual accessibility of UCH sites**. The new technological approaches that were developed, raise a great interest among visitors and, at the same time, offer many opportunities to convey information to be presented through traditional exhibitions. Particularly, **Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR)** have been used on several occasions for allowing users/tourists to explore and get educated on underwater cultural heritage. VR has been used for exploring the digital replica of archaeological finds, complex reality-based 3D models or for creating interactive and immersive experiences in museums to increase visitor engagement and education.

The integration of **CCI technologies** (Creative Cultural Industry) for the promotion of UCH is a new field that needs to build on this cross-border knowledge in a way that such good practices are effectively implemented to enhance public awareness and sustainable tourism development. The EU-co-funded [MeDryDive](https://medrydive.eu) project (<https://medrydive.eu>), that Atlantis participated in, designed a **transnational thematic tourism product, "Dive in the Past"**. Dive in the Past is the **first underwater cultural heritage serious game**, with over **120,000 downloads worldwide** (Android & iOS) and over **170,000 views on YouTube**. An **AR (Augmented Reality) leaflet** that converts static photos into video views of the underwater sites, **a VR (Virtual Reality) app** that allows by placing a smartphone into low-cost cardboard glasses to watch a virtual presentation of the 3D reconstruction of the sites, as well as **promotional videos** of all sites included in the tourism product.



Dive in Blue Growth Conferences

Dive in Blue Growth I

International Conference in Management of Accessible Underwater Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites: "Dive in Blue Growth" 16-18 October 2019 Athens, Museum of Acropolis, Auditorium

BLUEMED Project with the support of the Med Sustainable Tourism Community organized the International Conference in Management of Accessible Underwater Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites, "**Dive in Blue Growth**", which took place in Museum of Acropolis in Athens on October 16-18, 2019. The Conference was organized by University of Patras in collaboration with Region of Thessaly, Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities, Atlantis Consulting and the active participation of BLUEMED partners. The overall success of the Conference is based on the warm welcome that conference subjects received and the high level of participation, as **more than 300 people from 11 countries**, from Europe, Asia and the America participated in the conference. The three productive days of the Conference, in which **55 speakers from all over the world participated**, was a great opportunity for underwater archaeologists, public organizations, local governments, universities, marine researchers, NGOs, tourist organizations, diving park/dry dive managers, and underwater industry players to **exchange views on problems and solutions for underwater natural and cultural heritage**

Read the [Dive in Blue Growth I Conference Proceedings](#)

<https://bluemed.interreg-med.eu/Dive-In-Blue-Growth.pdf>

Dive in Blue Growth II

International Conference in Promotion of Accessible Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites: "Dive in Blue Growth" 12-14 May 2021 Virtual Conference

The 2nd International Conference "**Dive in Blue Growth**" on the Promotion of the Accessible Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites (AUCHS) was organised in the framework of **MeDryDive project**. It was held under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, with the support of the National Superintendence of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and the Central Conservation Institute of the Italian Ministry of Culture, the University of Calabria, and the Region of Thessaly. The conference was held online from 12 to 14 May 2021 and included **3 sessions daily with 40 presentations in total**. The 2nd Dive in Blue Growth brought together international researchers, scholars, policy makers and stakeholders, who exchanged views and experience on the responsible in-situ promotion of AUCHS and the **broad accessibility of Underwater Cultural Heritage to both divers and non-divers through innovative technologies**, as a means of their protection.

Read the [Dive in Blue Growth II Conference Proceedings](#)

https://medrydive.eu/2nd-DiveinBlueGrowth-Book_of_Abstracts.pdf

Videos of the [Dive in Blue Growth II Conference](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/@diveinthepast9492/streams>

Acceleration Programs

Atlantis Consulting is mainly focused on providing consulting services related to linking innovative projects and startups with private sources of funding, such as Venture Capital, Business Angels, and Strategic Investors. It has developed and standardized a relevant methodology of approaching sources of financing aimed at companies with high potential, has created its own network of business angels (which is active under the name [AdrionBAN](#)) and organizes events for the presentation of Pitch Decks in the Investors Community. At the same time, it actively supports and participates in cooperative formations and undertakes the design and implementation of its own business acceleration programs and/or mentoring at both local and European level.



AdrionBAN

AdrionBAN is a Business Angels Network of high added-value and confidentiality, created by Atlantis Consulting. It consists of more than 70 Business Angels from South-East Europe, who are willing to invest in innovative Startups and SMEs mainly in Greece. Their financing capability ranges from 20.000€ up to 500.000€ while financing can be achieved either through Share Capital Increase or Convertible Bonds. The Network has been established in October 2015 and since then it has successfully signed more than 12 deals which accounts for raise of funding of almost 2 million euros.

In order to give the chance to the Investors of the network to meet with aspiring entrepreneurs and acquire a deeper insight of the interesting cases, 7 Business Angels Forums have been organized since 2015 with more than 70 start-ups participating in them and the majority of members joining the initiative to listen to attractive investment opportunities



our Acceleration programs



The incubator for supporting newborn entrepreneurial teams from International Hellenic University

2023 was the starting year of "THEKLA". The incubator for supporting newborn entrepreneurial teams, acronymed as "THEKLA", operates within International Hellenic University in the university campus of Kavala and facilitates the establishment and development of new businesses, as well as the creation of a local ecosystem of entrepreneurial innovation. The presence of the local ecosystem and its continuous strengthening significantly boosts the economy of Kavala with a positive impact on the region and the country.

This initiative aims at empowering and strengthening startups through the support of innovative entrepreneurship, which forms the basis for economic rejuvenation. The startup ecosystem remains nascent in Greece, but significant signs of development have been observed in recent years, as there has been a notable increase in startups. An important characteristic of startup entrepreneurship and the progress made by Greece is the creation of new job positions by growing startups and international companies that see new opportunities in Greece.

Incubator acceleration program lasts 22 months and includes 3 rounds:

-**1st Round:** October 2023 – February 2024

-**2nd Round:** January 2024 – June 2024

-**3rd Round:** July 2024 – January 2025

THEKLA's program separates in more phases below, which applies on both 3 rounds:

-**Interview for incubation of the teams** whose applications have been approved by the Structure's Administration, in collaboration with the Contractor.

-**Evaluation of Candidates for pre-incubation** by the Contractor in collaboration with the administration of the Structure.

-**Pre-incubation:**

- Training sessions: Sessions in which all groups are together.

- Advisory Sessions: Sessions which are held in collaboration with the Contractor.

-**Incubation:**

- Training sessions: Sessions in which all groups are together.

- Advisory Sessions: Sessions which are held in collaboration with the Contractor.

-**Preparation of the teams for Demo Day**

- Advisory Sessions: Sessions which are held in collaboration with the Contractor.

- Visits by external speakers/business executives.

-**Demo Day.**

-**Advisory Support to the graduate teams** (after the Demo Day).

-**Advisory Sessions for fund receiving.**

-**Legal and Accounting Consulting Services.**

-**Advisory Services after the end of incubation program.**



Drama Chamber of Commerce & Industry



Innovation Support from the Chamber of Drama, Eastern Macedonia

LAB.40 Accelerator is a business accelerator of Chamber of Drama that addresses to those who have an innovative business idea and are in any of the following stages:

1. Formation of the initial business idea and team
2. Development of Business Plan.
3. Design and production of original product/service.
4. Testing of the product/service with users beyond the team.

The role of LAB.40 Accelerator is to support a business team to reach at a sufficient level in a short period of time in order to claim the implementation of the idea-solution it offers with better possibilities and chances of success. Each acceleration round lasts approximately 3 months, concluding with the presentations of the start-ups during the Demo Day, where the graduates of the accelerator present their ideas in front of the judges (professionals, investors, and market executives).

The project is financed by the European Social Fund and the Public Investment Program, through the Action "Establishment of Entrepreneurship Support Structures ECB", of the Operational Program "Eastern Macedonia Thrace 2021-2027".

Since the beginning of this business accelerator, four rounds of LAB.40 Accelerator were successfully completed. The Demo Day (final event) of the 4th round took place in LAB.40 offices in Drama on 30th of January 2023, where the 3 finalists were awarded. Since now, 48 teams participated in LAB.40 and 17 teams have graduated.

2023 was the starting year of the 5th round. The Kick-off Meeting took place on 9th of October 2023 at LAB.40 offices in Drama. Twelve (12) teams were selected to take part in LAB.40 Accelerator program. The Demo Day of 5th Round will take place on February 2024.



Kick-off Meeting of 5th round | October 9, 2023





Entrepreneurship & Innovation Support Center from Chamber of Kavala, Eastern Macedonia

Kick-iT Accelerator is the business accelerator of Chamber of Kavala that aims to support start-ups of the Municipality of Kavala in order to develop and implement their innovative ideas. Kick-iT Accelerator was successfully completed in two rounds and lasted 2 years, coordinated by Atlantis Consulting. Both rounds included Training sessions about Business Model, Validation of Market need, Marketing, Feasibility Study, Investment basics for startups etc.) and Mentoring Sessions about Market Need, Development of new products/services and Marketing strategies. Since now, 46 teams have participated in Kick-iT Accelerator and 15 teams have graduated.

The Demo Day of the 1st Round was successfully completed on 18th of July 2022 at the Chamber of Kavala. Thirteen teams presented their innovative business ideas, but at least, eleven teams were selected to implement them. The Demo Day of the 2nd Round completed on 21st June 2023 also at the Chamber of Kavala and 5 teams were finally selected.



Demo Day of 1st Round | July 18, 2022



Demo Day of 2nd Round | June 21, 2023

46
teams

over
200h
Training
Sessions

over
100h
Advisory
Sessions

Open Innovation Programs

Atlantis Consulting also provides consulting and advisory services related to Open Innovation Programs. Open Innovation Programs focus on the selected startups and researchers, providing them with access to a network of industry experts, business mentors, investors, and corporate partners. Intense mentorship, guided support, top-level masterclasses, pitching opportunities and networking events – all of this creates a perfect environment for business acceleration.



Open innovation program enabling startups and researchers to work together with corporate partners and co-develop innovative solutions to industry challenges.

An open innovation program named Confluence Challenge started in 2023 to develop the corporation between companies, startups and researchers in order to tackle the multifaced challenges of our time. Through Confluence Challenge, Architectural Aluminium Academy and I4byDesign are looking for innovative challenges to respond in specific challenges of international companies ALUMIL, ISOMAT and KLEEMANN. The acceleration program lasted 8 weeks and includes corporation and guidance from executives of these companies and specialized consultants. Furthermore, they will attend speeches, workshops and meeting with mentors. Confluence Challenge was designed and implemented with the collaboration of Atlantis Consulting, Anthology Ventures and Ideas Forward. This program was also supported by SBE, CERTH, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, University of Macedonia and Elevate Greece.

**11
Sep**

The opening event (Info Day) took place on 11th of September in CERTH, Amphitheater “Michael Gerasimos Strintzis”. The innovative industry (Alumil, ISOMAT, Kleemann) challenges were presented.



**24
Sep**

The 24th of September was the application deadline and an amazing number of 67 high-quality applications were received, covering 100% of the industry challenges.

12-18 Oct

Between 12th and 18th October, the Bootcamp took place, where 23 teams (11 start-ups and spin-offs, 8 research organizations and 4 SMEs) were selected. They received expert guidance and mentorship and competed for a chance to enter the acceleration program.



18 Oct

Bootcamp was successfully completed, and 18 teams (7 research organizations, 5 start-ups, 1 spin-off, 5 individuals) that presented very innovative solutions of 10+1 challenges of international companies: ALUMIL, ISOMAT and KLEEMANN succeed to enter to acceleration program.

04 Dec

The final event (Demo Day) took place on 4th of December in Amphitheatre 1 of Aristotle University Research Dissemination Center. The teams that claimed the Confluence Challenge awards are:

- Confluence Excellence Award (15.000€):** exanta & HazLab
- Technology Innovation Award:** PROMISE & Intelli.ware
- Market Disruption Award:** SmartLoC
- Innovation for Society Award:** LPRE
- Incubation Services Award:** WeLink, M4D Vision, CargoWatch, Ecomateria



Other programs



ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟ ΜΕΤΑΦΟΡΑΣ ΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ ΕΚΕΤΑ
σπειρα



CERTH
CENTRE FOR RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY HELLAS

EUROCONSULTANTS

Hypertech



spira.certh.gr

Provision of consulting services for business development

Atlantis Consulting, with the collaboration of Euroconsultants and Hypertech, provided consulting services (coaching/mentoring) to investigate feasibility and identify possible scenarios/models for the financial exploitation of 35 potential research ideas as well as the development of thorough business plans in order to establish 15 spin-off companies.

In the frame of "Spira", Atlantis Consulting contributed to the creation of 11 feasibility studies, and 5 business plans, providing more than 70 hours of coaching and mentoring and more than 40 sessions.

"Spira" had three phases:

- **1st Phase (10/04/2023-22/06/2023):** In total, 5 Feasibility Studies and 1 Business Plan were delivered.
- **2nd Phase (22/06/2023-20/07/2023):** In total, 6 Feasibility Studies and 2 Business Plans were delivered.
- **3rd Phase (28/08/2023-20/09/2023):** In total, 2 Business Plans were delivered.

Sixty two (62) Advisory Sessions were held, 88 hours in total. In Spira participated teams from CERTH, Univeristy of Macedonia, University of Western Macedonia, International Hellenic University (Thessaloniki, Kavala, Serres), Greek Agricultural Organization Demeter (ELGO Demeter).

events and exhibitions

5th Asian Pacific Regional Conference 2023, South Korea

At the week November 13-18, 2023, Atlantis Consulting participated in 5th Asian Pacific Regional Conference 2023 on Underwater Cultural Heritage, which took place at Asia Culture Centre in Gwangju, city of South Korea. CREAMARE, following the successful projects MAREBOX, BLUEMED, MeDryDive etc were presented.

13-18
Nov
2023



International Symposium of Conservation for Underwater Archaeology ISCUA '23, Formentera

Atlantis Consulting participated in International Symposium of Conservation for Underwater Archaeology ISCUA '23, which was held in Formentera Island at September 28 – October 1. ISCUA '23 was organised by Balearic Institute of Studies in Maritime Archaeology (IBEAM). During the conference, the significant initiatives and the projects, that have been implemented and are also being implemented in order to achieve inclusive accessibility and promotion, protection and preservation of Underwater Cultural Heritage in Mediterranean Sea, and more specifically in Greece, in Northern Sporades, were presented.

28-01
Sep-Oct
2023



Secondment – TECTONIC project (Atlantis Consulting & University of Calabria)

In June 2023 Atlantis Consulting colleagues participated in various activities at the DiBEST laboratories of the University of Calabria. Various training campaigns and a workshop "Protection and Enhancement of Underwater Cultural Heritage: Management models ad case studies" have been carried out.

Jun & Aug 2023

In August 2023 hosted Marco Ricci, Professor of University of Calabria. During the Secondment, meetings and seminars have been organized aiming at exchanging experiences and skills for the promotion of Underwater Cultural Heritage



Forward Green HELEXPO

08-10 Jun 2023

Atlantis Consulting annually participates at the Circular Economy exhibition, which takes place at TIF HELEXPO. By participating in the exhibition, Atlantis had the opportunity to present its services, exchange opinions and knowledge with other professionals, as well as strengthen its work by communicating with public.

BEYOND – EXPO



24-26 May 2023

Atlantis Consulting S. A. annually participates in BEYOND HELEXPO, representing the Network of Business Angels " Adrion BAN" as well as its research and innovative mark. The visitors had the opportunity to be informed by its executives about the current national investment programs as well as about the innovative partnerships that the company has entered into through its recent European projects.

International Exhibition – BOOT Düsseldorf

From January 24 to 27, Atlantis participated with great success at the BOOT 2023 International Exhibition in Düsseldorf. The BOOT exhibition was organized again after 3 years of pandemic, welcoming more than 200.000 visitors from more than 100 countries. Atlantis informed the audience about the Science DIVER project and the sciencediver.jobs platform and promoted diving destinations in the Sporades region.

24-27
Jan
2023

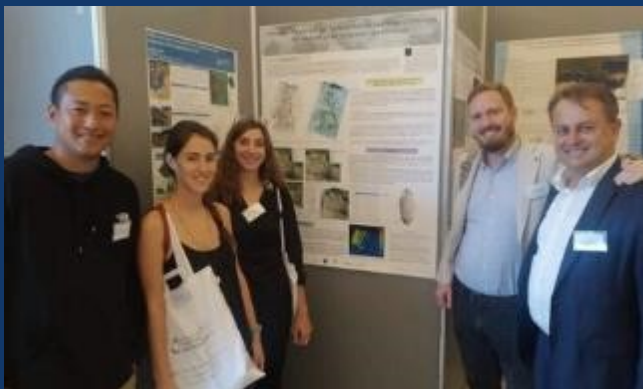


Honor Frost Foundation - Under the Mediterranean



Atlantis Consulting participated in the Under the Mediterranean II Conference held in Valletta, Malta between 2 - 6 November 2022. In the framework of the thematic section "Integrated management of the Marine and Maritime Cultural Heritage in the context of the Decade of the Ocean 2021 - 2031 for Sustainable Development of the UN" the Founder of Atlantis Mr. Angelos Manglis presented the actions we have developed in the context of European projects and other initiatives for the protection and promotion of Underwater Cultural Heritage and the sustainable tourism development and empowerment of the Blue Economy .

02-06
Nov
2022



7th Business Angels Forum



22
June
2022

Atlantis Consulting S. A. participated in the 7th Business Angels Forum (BAF VII) organized by the Adrion BAN (Business Angels Network), online on Wednesday, June 22, 2022. The 13 teams presented their business ideas to the investment public, claiming a possible collaboration with business angels or institutional investors. At the same time, in 5 teams were awarded the following prizes: Innovative Idea, Market Potential, Investment Readiness & Presentation Pitch Quality. A five-member committee which was made up of experienced evaluators in the field of start-up entrepreneurship, evaluate the teams giving them valuable feedback on their progress in the next ones their steps.

European Maritime Day 2022

Atlantis Consulting S.A. participated in last year's European Maritime Day 2022, which took place in Ravenna, Italy on May 19 - 20. European Maritime Day is an annual event where Europe Maritime Community comes together to network, discuss the common outline for maritime affairs and a sustainable Blue Economy. The main theme was "Sustainable Blue Economy of Green Recovery".

The event was an opportunity for the partners of Science DIVER project to meet in person to spread the initiatives of the project and hold B2B meetings with important entities and companies of the Blue Economy and Technology Sector.

On this occasion the 4th meeting of project Science DIVER was organized. The meeting was held hybridly with great success and representation from all project partners.

19-20
May
2022



Publications

- ❖ Manglis, A.; Fourkiotou, A.; Papadopoulou, D. Responsible accessibility as the better protection and preservation of Underwater Cultural Heritage. An ongoing effort in Greece. In Proceedings of the 1st International Symposium of Conservation for Underwater Archaeology (ISCUA 2021), Preserving the Invisible, in Formentera, Spain, 20-22 September 2019; A. Sanz, E. Aragón, J. Rodríguez Eds.; Universo de Letras; IBEAM; 2021; pp.25-32.
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- ❖ Manglis, A.; Fourkiotou, A.; Papadopoulou, D. Pilot actions for the Protection and Sustainable Promotion of Underwater Cultural Heritage. In Dousi, M. (Ed.), Sinamides, J. (Ed.), & Kotsopoulos, S. (Ed.). (2022). Protection Conservation Restoration of Cultural Monuments 20 years I.P.P.S. November 20-23, 2019, Thessaloniki, School of Engineering, AUTH Conference Proceedings [Other kind of textbook]. Kallipos, Open Academic Editions; 2020; pp. 535-544 <https://dx.doi.org/10.57713/kallipos-4>
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- ❖ Manglis, A.; Fourkiotou, A.; Papadopoulou, D. The Accessible Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites (AUCHS) as a sustainable tourism development opportunity in the Mediterranean Region. Special Section: Reconsidering tourism development in the Mediterranean. Reflections by the INTERREG MED Sustainable Tourism Community. Tourism: An International Interdisciplinary Journal 2020, 68 (4), 499-503. <https://doi.org/10.37741/t.68.4.9>
- ❖ Bruno, F.; Ricca, M.; Lagudi, A.; Kalamara, P.; Manglis, A.; Fourkiotou, A.; Papadopoulou, D.; Veneti, A. Digital Technologies for the Sustainable Development of the Accessible Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites. Journal of Marine Science & Engineering 2020, 8, 955. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jmse8110955>
- ❖ Manglis, A.; Giatsiatsou, P.; Papadopoulou, D.; Drouga, V.; Fourkiotou, A. Implementing Multi-Criteria Analysis in the Selection of AUCHS for the Integration of Digital Technologies into the Tourism Offering: The Case of MeDryDive. Heritage 2021, 4, 4460-4472. <https://doi.org/10.3390/heritage4040246>
- ❖ Manglis, A.; Fourkiotou, A.; Papadopoulou, D. A Roadmap for the Sustainable Valorization of Accessible Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites. Heritage 2021, 4, 4700-4715. <https://doi.org/10.3390/heritage4040259>
- ❖ Bruno, F.; Sacco Perasso, C.; Ricca, M.; Raxis, P.; Manglis, A.; Fourkiotou, A.; Kovačević, D.; Deliaj, F.; De Luca, L.; Veneti, A.; Davide Petriaggi, D. The BlueMed Plus project: transferring a sustainable tourism model for the management and the promotion of Underwater Cultural Heritage. Paper presented at the General States of the management from below of the Underwater Heritage Conference, Lecce-Porto Cesareo, 3-5 June 2022.
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