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Book of Abstracts



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From blue skills to blue growth: The Adriatic blue growth cluster digital platform for cross-border knowledge, learning and innovation

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Abstract

The Adriatic Blue Growth Cluster (ABGC) Digital Platform was developed within the Interreg IPA South Adriatic project 'High LEVEL and market-responder competences for a blue and digitalized 'Smart and skilled South Adriatic' – SKILLS' as a shared digital environment supporting cross-border cooperation, knowledge exchange, education and innovation in the blue economy.

The platform responds to the need for stronger links between research institutions, universities, public authorities, businesses, civil society organisations and other actors involved in sustainable marine and coastal development. It integrates three complementary functions: a learning module providing access to educational and training content; a community and communication module enabling networking, exchange of information and collaborative activities; and a business and services module supporting the visibility of organisations, expertise, services and cooperation opportunities.

The presentation will describe the platform's concept, structure and main functionalities, as well as its role in transforming project results into accessible and reusable digital resources. Practical examples will include its use in the implementation of SKILLS educational activities, particularly the Cross-Border Higher Education Learning Module Summer School and the Blue Economy Training Centre in Kotor.

The ABGC Digital Platform is designed not only as a project tool, but as a long-term cross-border ecosystem for connecting blue economy stakeholders across the South Adriatic area. By combining education, communication, networking and service promotion, it supports the development of relevant competences, facilitates cooperation between science and industry, and contributes to the transition from isolated initiatives towards a more integrated, innovative and sustainable Adriatic blue economy.

Keywords: Adriatic Blue Growth Cluster, digital platform, blue economy, cross-border cooperation, blue skills

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