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Book of Abstracts



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Regionalising BlueComp for the South Adriatic: An evidence-based qualification framework for blue-economy skills

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Abstract

This contribution presents the draft South Adriatic Blue Qualification Framework (SA BlueComp), developed within the Interreg IPA South Adriatic project SA SKILLS. The framework regionalises and operationalises the European BlueComp architecture for Albania, Montenegro, Puglia and Molise, combining European comparability with territorial and sectoral relevance.

SA BlueComp draws on an integrated evidence chain comprising cross-border analyses of company and industry needs, skills bottlenecks, drivers of emerging professions and employment chains, four-helix stakeholder mapping, engagement sessions and Skills Definition Labs. Cross-border stewardship and harmonisation are supported by the SA SKILLS Cross-Border Permanent Table.

The draft organises fifteen competences into four mutually reinforcing dimensions: understanding the blue economy; digital and technological skills; sustainability and resilience; and business innovation and governance. A five-level mastery scale describes progression from foundational awareness to expert performance. The framework also proposes seven priority sector profiles and common principles for learning outcomes, assessment, quality assurance and different credential types.

The accredited Kotor Higher Education Learning Module, *Sustainable Development of the Yachting and Cruise Industry*, illustrates how the approach can be applied through an ECTS-bearing, cross-border programme combining theory, independent learning, simulation, field visits and marine-laboratory experience.

SA BlueComp provides a common regional language for aligning education, industry and policy while respecting national qualification systems and the responsibilities of competent authorities. As the framework remains in draft form, education providers, employers, public authorities, researchers, civil-society organisations, learners and other interested stakeholders are invited to participate in the public consultation and contribute to its validation and further development.

Keywords: Blue economy; BlueComp; blue skills; qualification framework; South Adriatic, public consultation

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