



AdriBioPro2026

4th International Conference on Adriatic Biodiversity Protection

 Kotor • Montenegro

 22–25 September 2026

Book of Abstracts



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YEARS OF THE INSTITUTE
OF MARINE BIOLOGY
1961 – 2026

University of Montenegro
Institute of Marine Biology

4th International Conference on Adriatic Biodiversity Protection

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Kotor, 2026

Impressum

Publisher

University of Montenegro
Institute of Marine Biology
Put I bokeljske brigade 68
85330 Kotor
Montenegro

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For the Publisher

Dr Mirko Đurović

Editor-in-Chief

Dr Slađana Nikolić

Editor

Dr Branka Pestorić

Design and Layout

Dr Slađana Nikolić, Dr Zdravko Ikica

Published as online edition only.

Cover photos: Institute of Marine Biology.

Photos: Jugoslav Belada

ISBN 978-9940-9613-7-4

COBISS.CG-ID 39550468

DOI 10.5281/zenodo.23099811

From skills gaps to cross-border learning: The SKILLS project approach to blue economy education in the south Adriatic

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Abstract

The transition towards a sustainable, digital and competitive blue economy requires education and training systems that respond more effectively to emerging labour-market needs. The Inter-reg IPA South Adriatic project SKILLS addresses this challenge by linking skills analysis, cross-border cooperation and the development of innovative learning opportunities in Montenegro, Albania and Italy.

The project approach begins with the identification of skills gaps and mismatches through Skills Definition Labs, stakeholder consultations and a harmonised survey of companies, institutions and blue economy actors. The findings highlight common needs in technical competences, digitalisation, environmental sustainability, project management, regulatory knowledge and practical work experience, together with growing demand for hybrid professional profiles combining marine sciences, information technologies, tourism and sustainability.

Based on this evidence, SKILLS develops and tests cross-border education and training models designed to strengthen cooperation between universities, vocational providers, public authorities and industry. These include higher education learning modules, work-based and blended learning, targeted upskilling and reskilling activities, and the use of digital tools for access to educational content and stakeholder collaboration. Practical implementation is supported through the Blue Economy Training Centre and the Adriatic Blue Growth Cluster Digital Platform, which connect learning, networking and the promotion of expertise and services.

The poster presents the SKILLS educational pathway from needs assessment to curriculum development, testing and long-term uptake. It demonstrates how market evidence can be translated into flexible, cross-border learning solutions that improve workforce preparedness, facilitate knowledge transfer and support the recognition and circulation of blue economy competences across the South Adriatic area.

By integrating education, industry engagement and digital collaboration, SKILLS contributes to a more coordinated and future-oriented system for developing the human capital needed for sustainable blue growth.

Keywords: blue economy education; cross-border learning; skills development; digital learning; South Adriatic

CIP – Каталогизација у публикацији
Национална библиотека Црне Горе, Цетиње

ISBN 978-9940-9613-7-4
COBISS.CG-ID 39550468



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Skills



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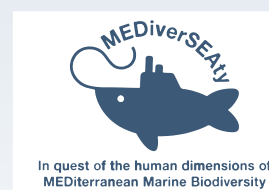
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