



**BLUEBIO COFUND AND  
BLUEMED JOINT TRAINING  
COURSE ON BLUEBIO  
TECHNOLOGIES**

The BlueBio Cofund and BlueMed joint training course took place in March. This first joint training course received very positive feedback as over 100 submissions were made from 19 countries all over Europe and North-Africa.

In the beginning of the year the reviewing process took place and 30 persons were selected and offered to take part in the course. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic the Course was entirely accomplished online.

The advanced training course aimed at contributing to the creation of 'blue skills', filling knowledge gaps while matching market opportunities via a joint effort among the scientific community, research infrastructures and business operators. The program offered the opportunity of increasing awareness about marine biotechnology purposes, and also promoting the progress of the research results through the pipeline up to the market, identifying technological and legal bottlenecks step by step and prospecting solutions. The joint training course was a success and it encouraged a continuous dialogue between

science, stakeholders and end-users. All attendees said they would be interested in joining another training course related to blue biotechnologies, aquatic products and

## MICROBIOME E-COFFEE MEETING

The microbiome event was held online in May and almost 40 participants from BlueBio projects, partners from the BlueBio cofund and the Marine Microbiome Working group attended the e-coffee. The aim of the meeting was to initiate discussions and also to identify bottlenecks in the projects (if any) regarding microbiome analysis and whether there are possibilities for standardizing the methodology.

The conclusion of the meeting is as follows: At the moment there are no possibilities for standardizing the methods entirely, but maybe there are opportunities to do so on the Bioinformatic part and also the data storage or the management part. Some attendees expressed their interest in sharing protocols and collaborating in the future.

## MARKET PATHWAYS FOR SUSTAINABLE ALGAE PRODUCTS

In September 2021, the ERA-Net programmes BlueBio and SUSFOOD2 jointly organised an online workshop on market pathways for sustainable algae products. The goal of the workshop was to bring research and industry together to discuss the future of sustainable algae products and especially about market issues like regulation, pilot scale infrastructure, techno-economic feasibility and sustainability. In both ERA-Net programmes, several research projects based on algae as resource are funded.

The event consisted of two keynotes that gave broad perspective from industry on production and processing of micro- and macroalgae. The keynote presentations were followed by four flash project presentations from the SUSFOOD2 and BlueBio programmes and those were followed by four breakout rooms on the following topics:

- Regulation
- Pilot testing and upscaling
- Economics
- Sustainability

Every participant could join two breakout rooms of choice to discuss key questions prepared by moderators. Participants could then meet for an hour at wonder.me - an online networking tool

This joint workshop was an excellent opportunity to increase interaction between industry and research and to enlarge networking between participants of both ERA-Net programmes on blue bio-economy and sustainable food systems. In the breakout rooms, researchers got more insight in the challenges of industry and this will without a doubt generate ideas for future projects.

**More information about the results from the event, pdf. files, summary slides and recordings**

## MIDTERM EVALUATION FOR THE BLUEBIO COFUNDED PROJECTS

The first Cofunded call on Blue Bioeconomy resulted in funding nineteen projects with a total budget of some € 25 million out of 83 pre-proposals received. Four priority areas were addressed in the call:

- Priority area 1: Exploring new bio-resources
- Priority area 2: Exploring improvements in fisheries and aquaculture
- Priority area 3: Exploring synergies across sectors
- Priority area 4: Exploring Biotechnology and ICT

**More information on the projects**

Mid-term review is now being planned in March 2022. Further notice will be given on the date and the arrangement in due course.

## 1ST ADDITIONAL CALL

The submission deadline for the 1st additional call was in February 2021. In total 15 full proposals were submitted and the requested funding was approximately € 16,5 million (own contribution: additional € 3,2 million). After a national eligibility check by funders, full proposals were evaluated by an international review panel in a two-stage evaluation process and the selected projects were announced in May.

In total, ten proposals with a budget of about 10 million Euro were selected for funding. The applicants came from all involved partner countries, namely Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Malta, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Spain.

The list of selected projects along with the Coordinator Organisation is as follows:

- BlueBioChain - Hellenic Agricultural Organization
- Taco Algae - Nofima AS
- SuMaFood - SINTEF Energy Research
- Profius - Technical University of Denmark (DTU)
- MuMiFast - DTU Aqua
- MicroAlgae in IT - Estonian University of Life Sciences
- MARIGREEN - University “Politehnica” of Bucharest
- SMARTCHAIN - SINTEF Ocean
- QualiSea - SINTEF Industry
- TraceMyFish – SciO

### **More information on the projects**

## **2ND ADDITIONAL CALL**

In the 2nd additional call 21 pre-proposals were submitted. In the beginning of December the BlueBio consortium decided that 19 pre-proposals were to be invited to full proposal stage. The deadline for submission of full proposals is February 21st and an eligibility check will be performed by March 1st.

## **FORESIGHT ACTIVITY**

BlueBio will start a Foresight activity on 1 November 2021 to develop a Strategic Knowledge and Innovation agenda

(SKIA) within the Blue Bioeconomy using foresight and scenario methodology. The process will be facilitated by Luc van Hoof and Sarah Smith from EFARO and is planned to include four stakeholder workshops during 2022. BlueBio will be inviting stakeholders to the process in the coming weeks.

**It was recently announced that, like many other ERA NETs, BlueBio has received a 6 month extension because of the COVID-19 pandemic, so the new end-date for the BlueBio Cofund is May 2024.**

**From the BlueBio Cofund team, we wish you and your family a Happy New Year, 2022.**



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