



BLUE PORTS

Blue Careers in Net Zero Energy Ports

BLUE PORTS Certifying staff for sustainable port leadership

THE CHALLENGE

Ports play a major role in the supply chain management, the national and supranational economy, by providing access to resources through transportation and services, while upholding safety and security. Europe accommodates more than 1,200 ports supporting 2.5 million jobs. Still, maritime transport grapples with environmental challenges, accounting for 3-4% of the EU's total CO₂ emissions, with 6-7% generated at berth, compounded by a detected lack of necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies in the Blue Economy workforce, to drive the ports' green transition.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

BLUE PORTS is dedicated to enhancing the skills and capacity of human capital within the port ecosystem, focusing on small and medium ports, with a view to support and foster their green transition. By delivering a mutually acknowledged training and certification scheme at the European level, in accordance with ISO 17024, BLUE PORTS offers a competitive advantage to the blue economy's workforce. The consortium engages key market actors across the quadruple innovation helix and from four different countries: Greece, Spain, Italy and Georgia, in a robust network comprising the marine and maritime educational institutions, the Blue Economy industry, civil society-environmental organizations, and governance at local, regional, national, and transnational levels.

BLUE PORTS AT A GLANCE

PROGRAMME

European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)

CALL

EMFAF-2023-BlueCareers

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 1,171,661 (funding rate 80%)

DURATION

November 2023 – October 2025

COORDINATOR

Renewable and Sustainable Energy Lab
Technical University of Crete

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EXPECTED RESULTS

- ✓ A new **operational certification scheme** in accordance to **ISO/IEC 17024**, tested in 4 countries (Greece, Spain, Italy, Georgia) and **mutually acknowledged across the EU**, offering **upskilling** opportunities to accelerate career advancement, job mobility, and talent retention within the Blue Economy sectors.
- ✓ A tailored **training methodology and fully digitalized material**, in 5 languages (English, Greek, Spanish, Italian and Georgian), including a synchronous and asynchronous **training platform**, that cover green technology solutions, the integration of eco-friendly products and services, and the adoption of business models, to minimize the environmental footprint of port activities, thereby **driving their transition to a green paradigm**.
- ✓ A pool of **200+ skilled staff**, including ports' and port operators' personnel and management **will become certified** blue economy staff under the BLUE PORTS scheme.
- ✓ **Courses and career-oriented events motivating 300+ young talents**, promoting employability and adaptability, by equipping them with digital, green, soft, transversal, inter-/multi-disciplinary, managerial, and entrepreneurial skills.
- ✓ A **BLUE PORTS network**, comprising stakeholders from **all parts of the value chain** (employers, employees, academia, end users, social partners, competent authorities) and from **each quadrant of the quadruple innovation helix** (industry, academia, governance and authorities, civil society).
- ✓ A **roadmap** for the BLUE PORTS scheme's uptake across Europe, the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

THE BLUE PORTS TEAM

COORDINATOR



TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF CRETE
SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
RENEWABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
SYSTEMS LABORATORY

BENEFICIARIES



TÜVNORD

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS



FOLLOW US



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