



## Atlantic Arc Commission

# Minutes of the Innovation Working Group Meeting

Tuesday 4 April 2016 - Brussels

### Participants:

**Member Regions:** Aquitaine-Limousin-Poitou-Charentes, Bretagne, Cantabria, Galicia, Navarra, Normandie, Euskadi, Pays de la Loire, Northern and Western Regional Assembly.

**CPMR:** Damien Périssé, Director in charge of maritime affairs & Giuseppe Sciacca, Senior policy officer.

**Invitees:** Ingrid Arnaudin, Lecturer-Researcher at the University of la Rochelle

**Atlantic Arc Commission:** Pauline Caumont, Executive Secretary & Emmanuel Maniscalco, Policy Analyst

### I. Welcome address Introduction and presentation of the aim of the meeting, **Marie-Agnès Dupouey** and **Sheila Zecovic**, Aquitaine-Limousin-Poitou-Charentes Region

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**Sheila Zecovic**, from the Aquitaine Limousin Poitou-Charentes Region (ALPC), welcomed the participants. She recalled that the Aquitaine Region took over the presidency of the “Innovation” Working Group in 2015 during the Bilbao General Assembly. This Working Group, which aim is to focus on the blue economy, first met on 6 October 2015 in Bordeaux. On this occasion, the Aquitaine Region presented a draft roadmap for 2 years.

**Marie-Agnès Dupouey**, Director in charge of Biodiversity at the ALPC Region, mentioned the 4 axes that were identified on 6 October 2015, namely Biological Resources and Biotechnologies; Ships of the Future; Development, surveillance and security of the coast; Marine mineral resources (see the [Introduction PowerPoint presentation](#)). The priorities were ranked according to the level of importance. For each priority, one or several deliverables were defined.

As far as **priority 1** is concerned, it was decided to identify funding opportunities and work on a project proposal.

The deliverables of the 3 other priorities were defined as follow:

- **Priority 2:** drawing up an Atlantic data directory of the key players in the field of “ships for future” in order to submit one Horizon 2020 project;
- **Priority 3:** lobbying at the European level to improve the access of the Atlantic actors to the marine and coastal data and share them effectively;
- **Priority 4:** setting up a Scientific and Regulatory monitoring and exchanging information between the Atlantic Regions.

This working group first needs to focus on priority 1 and develop a project linked to biological resources. Some preliminary work had already been done by the ALPC Region, which contacted the University of La Rochelle that is leading a project called CB2S (see [Ingrid Arnaudin’s PowerPoint presentation](#)). The aim of this specific meeting was to identify potential partners in the Atlantic Regions that could take part in a project in line with the CB2S project.

## II. Update on the last meeting of the Atlantic Arc Commission's Innovation Working Group and European context, **Pauline Caumont**, Executive Secretary of the Atlantic Arc Commission

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**Pauline Caumont**, Executive Secretary of the Atlantic Arc Commission, thanked the ALPC Region for all the work that had been done so far. She insisted on the fact that it was the right moment to prepare a project proposal in the field of blue biotechnology, especially with the launching of the "Blue Labs" and "Blue Careers" calls for proposals within the EMFF, which deadline for submission is 31 May 2016. Two background notes on these two calls had been circulated to the members and are available on the [Atlantic Arc Commission's website](#). Knowing that the deadline was tight, she invited the member Regions to identify potential partners as soon as possible. She underlined that the project the University of La Rochelle intends to submit seems to fit DG MARE's Blue Growth calls. She added that, in the event the proposal would not be selected, it could also be submitted within the Atlantic Area programme. The first calls for proposals of this programme should be issued by the end of April. More information will soon be available on the new programme's website: [www.atlanticarea.eu](http://www.atlanticarea.eu)

**Mar Martín Raba**, from Cantabria, mentioned another funding opportunity (call for proposals) launched by DG Employment, called "A European framework for mobility of apprentices: Developing European citizenship and skills through youth integration in the labour market". More information about this call can be found [here](#). The deadline for submission of this call is 15 April 2016. It has no thematic focus.

## III. Presentation of the CB2S project and opportunities at the Atlantic level, **Ingrid Arnaudin**, University of La Rochelle

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**Ingrid Arnaudin**, Lecturer-Researcher and leader of the biotechnology research team at the University of La Rochelle, presented the CB2S project led by the biotechnology lab and funded by the University of La Rochelle. The main aim of this project is to promote the development of an axis on blue biotechnology and blue growth in ALPC. The consortium brings together associations of researchers, universities and enterprises. It consists of 4 specific actions:

- 2 actions at regional level
  - o Creation of an applicative lab
  - o Mapping of the relevant actors
- 2 actions at EU level
  - o **Creation of an EU Master in biotechnology**
  - o **Development of collaborative researches on blue biomolecules**

Concerning the Master the University is planning to create (corresponding to the "Blue Careers" call for proposals), she referred to the contact person in the University: **Stéphanie Bordenave-Juchereau** ([stephanie.bordenave@univ-lr.fr](mailto:stephanie.bordenave@univ-lr.fr)). She presented the main features of this Master, which is a 10-month Master that can be based in the University of La Rochelle or in another University located in the Atlantic Regions. She stressed the fact that the originality of this Master is that it is a "professionalizing" Master with work-linked training, which has no equivalent in France. She also presented the 3 work packages defined for the Blue Careers call for proposals, namely "design and provide curriculum courses"; "preparation of courses (slides, practices, evaluation of competences)"; "dissemination and communication". This project could lead to the creation of a chair that would help create an applicative lab that would enable the students to test their hypothesis. More information about the Master can be found in [Ingrid Arnaudin's PowerPoint presentation](#). She pointed out the fact that the aim of the meeting was to identify partners (universities, enterprises, etc.) and also professors from other Universities that could give courses at the University of La Rochelle in the framework of this Master. **Pauline Caumont** stated that the Atlantic Arc Commission could help liaise with the member Regions in order to identify partners.

**Frédéric Suche**, from Brittany, recalled that the terms of reference insist on the necessity to address the issue of skills gaps and increase employability, and that the call targets several categories of people (young graduates, job seekers,

workers, etc.). He stressed that when writing the application, it will be essential to have this in mind and make sure that the proposal would not best fit in an Erasmus+ call for proposals (i.e. Joint Master Degrees) or other.

**Ingrid Arnaudin** stressed that the originality of this Master is that it helps meet the enterprises' needs by offering a training in which they are highly involved. Some courses could also be open to professionals, within a lifelong learning approach, as suggested in Work Package 1.

**Mar Martín Raba** added that it is important to have in mind other similar initiatives (e.g. Horizon 2020 SME Innovation Associate targeting PHD students, aiming at fostering cooperation between SMEs and research centres in the field of innovation) that are high on the agenda.

**Ingrid Arnaudin** suggested to do a “tour de table” to know whether Masters in biotechnology (health and nutrition) already exist in the member Regions and also to identify potential partners. All the Regions that attended the meeting will contact relevant partners (see table below) and disseminate the information.

Region	Potential partner
Euskadi	University of the Basque country + cluster
Normandie	No university identified (more interested in the “Blue Technology” call for proposals)
Navarra	University of Navarra
Northern and Western Regional Assembly (IE)	Marine Institute
Cantabria	Institute of Biomedicine & Biotechnology of Cantabria + Environmental Hydraulics Institute of Cantabria
Galicia	No feedback yet
Bretagne	Same as Normandie: more interested in the “Blue Technology” call for proposals
Pays de la Loire	École Nationale Supérieure Maritime

**Pauline Caumont** announced that a partner search note would be circulated among the members and that the entities interested would be requested to contact the AAC’s Executive Secretariat by 15 April.

**Damien Périssé**, CPMR’s Director in charge of maritime affairs, mentioned that other Regions outside the Atlantic area would be interested in joining the consortium, namely Vastra Götaland (SE) and Campania (IT). He stressed the fact that the geographical scope of this call is not restricted to the sea basins.

Concerning the Development of collaborative research on blue biomolecules, **Ingrid Arnaudin** presented the main features of the project the University of La Rochelle is willing to develop, which could fit in the “Blue Labs” call for proposals. This project is dedicated to the exploitation of marine biocorrosion ecosystems found in harbours and source of new industrial and biotechnological applications. The University of La Rochelle is looking for partners in the Atlantic. She presented the four work packages that were identified, namely: “Sampling in the marine Atlantic area”; “Construction of metagenomic libraries and screening for new natural products”; “Construction of an analytical library of blue molecules”; “Training activities in connection with the Biotechnological European master”. More information is available in [Ingrid Arnaudin’s PowerPoint presentation](#).

#### IV. Presentation of the Blue Growth Calls in the framework of the EMFF, **Emmanuel Maniscalco**, Policy Analyst (Atlantic Arc Commission)

**Emmanuel Maniscalco**, Policy Analyst (Atlantic Arc Commission), presented the main features of the three Blue Growth calls for proposals issued by DG MARE within the EMFF 2016 work programme. He first pointed out the main differences between the “Blue Careers” and “Blue Labs” calls that were published on 1 March 2016 (deadline:

31 May). The expected output of the “Blue Careers” call is an education or training product whereas the “Blue Labs” call aims at developing a “service/product/tool relating to challenges/opportunities developed at pilot or commercial stage”. The geographical scope is also different: the “Blue Labs” call targets consortia at sea basins level, whereas the “Blue Careers” call is more flexible. He also recalled that an info day on the Blue Growth calls was organised by DG MARE the day after (5 April). He finally gave general information about the “Blue Technology” call for proposals, which is of great interest for many members of the AAC’s “Innovation” Working Group. It was thus decided that this call would be further discussed within this Working Group in the weeks to come. See [Emmanuel Maniscalco’s PowerPoint presentation](#).

#### V. Presentation of the H2020 project on blue technologies in which the CPMR is involved, **Damien Périssé**, Director in charge of Maritime affairs (CPMR)

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**Damien Périssé** presented the “EMBRC PP2” Horizon 2020 project, which is coming to its end. This project was developed in collaboration with the [European Marine Biological Resource Centre \(EMBRC\)](#) infrastructure, which brings together research centres specialised in blue biotechnology. This project has a twofold approach analysing 1) the blue component in the regional S3 (funding); 2) governance of the infrastructure. Thanks to the participation of the CPMR in this project, the EMBRC is now willing to include Regions in their network through the CPMR or including directly the Regions. Many Regions are very interested in knowing more about the other Regions’ investment priorities in order to improve the coordination of investment.

He also presented the [interactive map on regional S3](#) that was designed by the CPMR. This map consists of six layers representing different maritime sectors (namely marine maritime dimensions; food, nutrition and health; tourism and recreation in coastal areas; management of maritime and coastal areas; maritime transport; marine renewable energy, shipbuilding, advanced materials and manufacturing processes). He focused on the “food, nutrition and health” layer in which blue biotechnology is included. He stressed the fact that this map is an evolutionary tool and that contributions from the member Regions are more than welcome.

He finally informed the participants that the CPMR will be organising a [workshop on blue biotechnology value chain in Europe](#) together with the University of Bilbao in Bilbao on 21 June 2016. He also stated that the CPMR is willing to develop a broader “blue career” project, involving actors from different sea basins, which will be submitted later on in the framework of another call for proposals.

#### VI. Discussion and preparation of the application(s): identification of the partners, budget, definition of the work packages, timeline and distribution of roles for drafting the application

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**Pauline Caumont** recalled that the Regions are requested to get back to the Executive Secretariat with details about potential partners before **15 April** as the timelines are very tight. The next steps will be the drafting of the application and the elaboration of the budget. The Atlantic Arc Commission’s Executive Secretariat will have a deeper look at the terms of reference and can help drafting the proposal.

**Ingrid Arnaudin** informed the participants that a brief note about the project idea will be circulated among the members before the end of the week.

**Pauline Caumont** suggested that once the consortium is formed, a first physical meeting between the partners should be organised before the end of April.

#### VII. Summary of the discussion and decisions taken during the meeting - Miscellaneous questions and next meeting of the Working Group

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**Marie-Agnès Dupouey**, Director Project Blue Growth (Aquitaine-Limousin-Poitou-Charentes), thanked the participants and insisted on the need to identify potential partners as soon as possible. The Atlantic Arc Commission’s “Innovation” Working Group should concentrate its effort in the “Blue Growth” call for proposals for the time being.