



Atlantic Arc Commission

Minutes of the Marine Renewable Energies Working Group meeting

1st December 2016 - Brussels (BE)

I - WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE BRITTANY REGION, PRESIDENCY OF THE ATLANTIC ARC COMMISSION'S WORKING ON MARINE RENEWABLE ENERGIES

Jean-Michel Lopez, Director in charge of Marine Energies at the Brittany Region and Chair of the Atlantic Arc Commission's (AAC) Marine Renewable Energy (MRE) working group welcomed the participants and recalled that MRE is a promising sector in the Atlantic Arc, where many projects are being developed. He stressed the need for the members to keep collaborating and seeking synergies with other Atlantic Arc Commission working groups in order to seize as many opportunities as possible (development of joint projects, reduction of costs, etc.). MRE is currently very high on the EU agenda and must be monitored very closely. Several policies related to energy transition are being updated (e.g. Renewable Energy Directive-RED).

II – INFORMATION ON OCEANERA-NET BY THE BRITTANY REGION

Yvan Guiton, Director in charge of maritime affairs at the Brittany Region then presented the Oceanera-net project ([See PPT presentation on Oceanera-net](#)). This project led by Scotland - which total budget amounts to €12,2 million is co-financed by the European Union (33,33% co-financing rate). Its aims at achieving a more competitive, secure and sustainable energy system by increasing the share of renewable energies, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and Developing a new industrial sector to create growth.

He pointed out the project's main objectives:

- ↻ Improve machine performance and reliability
- ↻ Facilitating the acceleration of technology development
- ↻ Reducing the cost of innovative technologies
- ↻ Developing innovative solutions to the common difficulties of MRE technologies
- ↻ Developing experiences transfer
- ↻ Developing the potential and the capacity of the supply chain

The project consists in setting up a call for tenders and monitoring the implementation of the selected project.

Yvan Guitton pointed out the administrative burden partners have to face in the Oceanera-net project. He finally insisted on the need for EU stakeholders to pull efforts and work together in order to compete with other countries (i.e. Japan, the USA, etc.) in the future.

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II - INFORMATION ON TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF MRE BY PAULINE CAUMONT

Pauline Caumont, Executive Secretary of the Atlantic Arc Commission, gave general information concerning the EMFF Blue Careers project “A Blue Biotechnology Master for A Blue Career” - which was selected for funding - in which the Atlantic Arc Commission is involved as full partner. This 2-years project will start in early 2017. It aims at developing a Master’s degree exploring the potential benefits of Blue Biotechnologies to health, nutrition and aquaculture.

Jean Michel Lopez then presented the maritime training sector in Brittany as well as the opportunities for collaboration with other members ([See PPT presentation on Blue Careers](#)). Brittany is really keen to take part in the development of a maritime Erasmus.

III – INFORMATION ON EU PROJECT BY EMMANUEL MANISCALCO

Emmanuel Maniscalco, Policy Analyst (AAC), presented 2 Interreg Atlantic Area projects that were submitted under the 2016 call for proposals, in which the Atlantic Arc Commission is full partner.

- **SIWEIS** (Sustainable Integration of Wave Energy in the Atlantic Arc Economy through Innovative Synergies with Maritime Activities)
 - o **Passed the first selection phase** – Results of the second phase should be available in March 2017
 - o **Lead Partner:** Fundación Instituto de Hidráulica Ambiental de Cantabria (FIHAC)
 - o **Duration:** 3 years (April 2017 – March 2020)
 - o **Overall description:**

“Wave energy is called upon to play a role in the European energy mix but significant obstacles still exist. SIWEIS will foster wave energy growth through integration with other maritime uses (transport, energy, aquaculture). Using Blue Economy priority sectors, 5 main obstacles will be addressed: reliability; survivability; sustainability; LCOE and environmental integration. The main outputs will be a GIS tool and an integrated strategy to leverage wave energy under a transnational approach.”
 - o **Role of the Atlantic Arc Commission within the project:**

“The CPMR will be responsible for WP2 on communication with the support of all the other partners. In doing so, it will make sure to use its existing network to communicate about the project as broadly as possible and raise awareness about the potential for development of the wave energy sector. Apart from coordination & management, and capitalisation activities, the CPMR will coordinate all the communication activities, including the elaboration of the communication plan; the management of digital tools and supervision of social networks; the organisation of some of the project’s meetings and conference as well as other dissemination activities.”
- **PIONEER** (Empowering Atlantic Area to Lead Offshore Renewable Energies)
 - o **Did not pass the first selection phase** – A new application should be submitted by the consortium under the 2017 call for proposals.
 - o **Lead Partner:** Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands (PLOCAN)
 - o **Duration:** 3 years
 - o **Overall description:**

“PIONEER addresses empowering the Atlantic Area (AA) to lead Offshore Renewable Energies (ORE) in global market, transforming them into mainstream energy. Atlantic Arc Regions have expertise and resources to achieve breakthroughs, but transnational cooperation is required to overcome barriers. ORE and Blue Growth are priorities in the Smart Specialisation Platform (S3), but they need more sustainable collaboration. PIONEER will improve regional competitiveness by promoting economic and social cooperation.”

III – CONCLUSION AND FOLLOWING STEPS

Jean-Michel Lopez thanked the participants and all the members of the groups for their involvement throughout the Presidency of the Brittany Region. He informed the members that the Brittany Region was willing to hand over the Presidency of the group on the occasion of the renewable of the working group's presidencies during the Atlantic Arc Commission's 2017 General Assembly. He encouraged non-French members to apply for the presidency of the group in order to give the opportunities to Regions from other countries to take the lead.

He claimed that Brittany would keep being strongly involved in the activities of this group.

For any questions/further clarifications, please send an email to the Atlantic Arc Commission Secretariat: catherine.petiau@crpm.org and pauline.caumont@crpm.org