

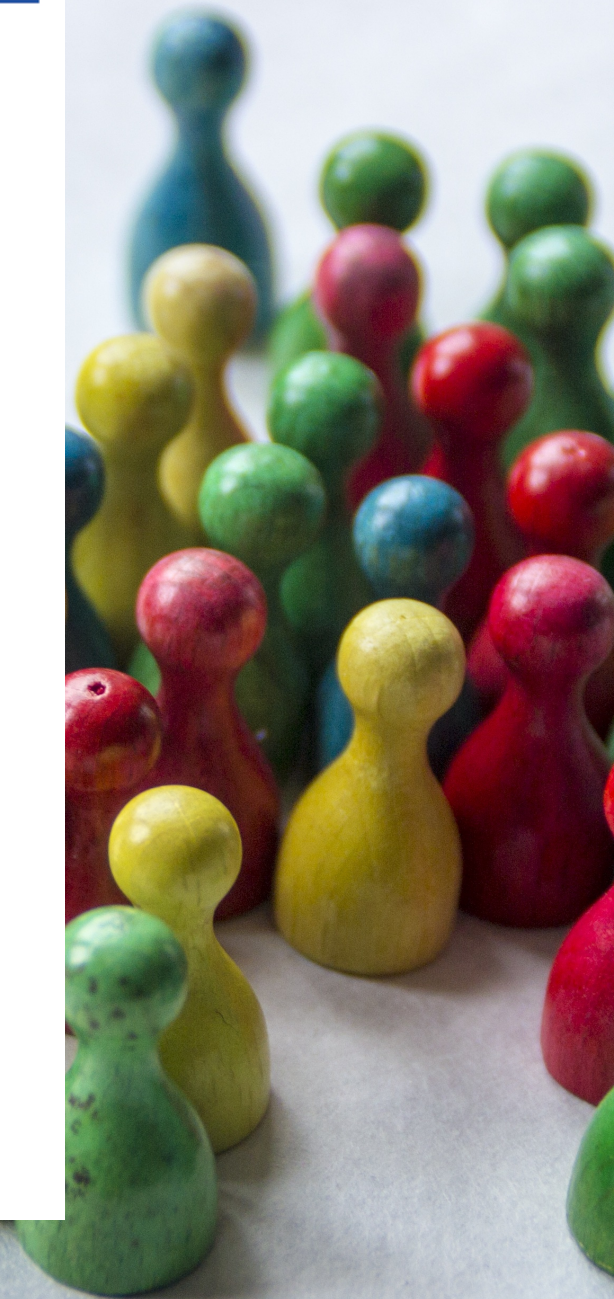


Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



# Stakeholders at the Heart of SEA-EU:

**Opportunities for  
(Small, Medium and  
Large) Local  
Stakeholders to  
engage with the SEA-  
EU Project**



# Introduction

The document outlines FIVE broad opportunities for stakeholders to collaborate with and join SEA-EU Universities and activities. It groups activities according to main objectives and describes ways and possibilities of involvement.

## Overarching Values and Principles

- We firmly believe in a 'University-Industry' collaboration that is grounded in the **different yet pivotal and complementary roles** that academia and business play in contemporary society.
- Research that is developed and executed collaboratively helps students find **rewarding jobs** once they graduate; while for businesses it **creates a pipeline of graduate students who could become your future employees, talent pool and an entrepreneurial cadre**.
- We seek inspiration from, and commitment to, the principles of **sustainable development** enshrined in the UN's 17 SDGs. With this in mind, we encourage industry to develop or enhance its 'green credentials'.
- We encourage the **acknowledgement of the diversity** of our societies and communities; the benefits of University-Industry collaboration are ideally cascaded to such diverse groups as non-university graduates, immigrants, the disabled and vulnerable groups.



# Opportunity # 1: Research Collaboration

Research collaboration can stimulate stakeholders' internal research and development programs and allow them, through students' research and work, to **explore innovative goods and services for the market and seed early-stage research**. University-industry research relationships strengthen companies' research and development (R&D).

This first look at cutting-edge research gives companies a competitive advantage because it decreases the time it takes to move a potential product from the laboratory to the market, which strengthens **international economic competitiveness**.

To ensure long-term sustainability and beneficial collaboration between the SEA-EU Alliance and the industry, SEA-EU aims to develop joint mission-based funding for collaborative research and innovation through partnering with interested SMEs and Large Entities.

As a SEA-EU stakeholder, you can collaborate with SEA-EU partners in various ways; and involving both short-term and long-term cooperation.

## Shorter-term opportunities include:

1

**Host internships: host summer research practice for undergraduate (BA/BSc), masters (MA/MSc) or PhD students;**

Gain valuable fresh perspective of other markets and demographics while hosting students and their summer research projects as interns. Erasmus+ can fund the interns' travelling and living costs.

2

**Cooperate on several interdisciplinary pan-European research-based master theses (2 per partner institution)**

Contribute with a problem proposal to be solved during a research-based master thesis in an European surrounding.



3

Participate in applications for new joint-research and innovation calls in line with the SEA-EU mission.

Express your interest to participate in new SEA-EU projects where applicable.

Invest in research and innovation projects with industrial applications.

DESC: Support targeted research and innovation projects directly and participate in their shaping.

Establishing longer-term, intersectoral collaboration can help businesses reach out to and engage with institutional partnerships. It also aligns commercial development with early stage research. It also serves as a more sustainable commitment by industry to higher education.

## With this in mind, the SEA-EU Alliance invites stakeholders to:

1

Exchange good practices and experiences and identify barriers and gaps to industrial cooperation;

Discuss challenges in the context of joint academia-industry fora and think tanks

2

Engage mainly with marine and maritime companies to set up and fund at least one professorial chair per SEA-EU University

Sponsor/refund the salary of a full professor or associate professor

3

Fund full-time PhD students;

Co-create a SEA-EU joint industrial PhD.

Sponsor an industrial PhD to solve a concrete challenge that your business may be struggling with; or to develop a new technology or solution (within each university of the Alliance; and/or as a SEA-EU Alliance-wide initiative).





# Opportunity # 2: Establishing Work Placement and Work Based Learning Experiences

The SEA-EU Alliance invites stakeholders to act as mentors and formally assist in developing the work-based engagement and entrepreneurial mind-set of students

## To do so, the Alliance aims wants to:

1

### Establish work placement opportunities

This initiative would allow those who are still students to gain work experience while they are studying. Unlike work based learning (WBL) - tackled below - this work should be paid and is not necessarily for credit, so it does not count towards the students' degree.

Placements offer students the opportunity to gain practical work experience that is relevant to their area of study or interest. On-the-job training takes place at the employer's premises with whom the trainee is placed.

- A minimum of 100 hours per student is advised. Participants are offered a stipend.
- This activity is not for credit.
- 30 work placements are envisaged across the SEA-EU Alliance.
- Open to all branches of knowledge and work.

2

### Work-based learning study units

This initiative would tackle key issues regarding vocational education and training (VET) within education, and the association between VET and the preparation and honing of employability skills. University of Malta recommends that work-based learning is integrated in all programmes of studies and should be for credit (ECTS based) and not remunerated.

- Open to all branches of knowledge and work.

# Opportunity # 3: Boosting Innovation and Competitiveness

In line with the European Commission Regional Strategy for Research and Innovation for Smart Specialisation, the SEA-EU Alliance commits to build strategic partnerships for enhanced innovation and competitiveness.

SEA-EU partners want to explore the potential for a more territorially focussed higher education system, thus creating synergies and boosting competitiveness, as well as sharing best practices with and among business partners.

## With this in mind, the SEA-EU Alliance invites stakeholders to:

- 1** Participate in the interdisciplinary workshops organized by each University to discuss local challenges faced by the marine and maritime sectors in SEA-EU regions

With participation, you will obtain insights into trends and European expectations of the upcoming programming periods in order to better prepare your company's strategy and development.

# Opportunity # 4: Participation in SEA-EU events

## Stakeholders have the opportunity to join and participate in SEA-EU organized events.

- 1** **SEA-EU Staff Weeks**  
Offered to both SEA-EU students and staff, covering different topics. A list of Staff Weeks (virtual or physical or hybrid) can be found on the SEA-EU website; (Funding opportunities can be explored)
- 2** **A series of Interdisciplinary workshops**  
Such as the "SEA-EU Navigating a bright blue future for the Marine & Maritime Sector" and "Developing a Toolkit to Evaluate Online Programmes"

3

### Co-creation models and events

Such as living labs, workshops, hackathons, conferences and collective intelligence/ creative meetings; Sponsor or participate in an event to gain new insights, solve your challenges or promote your solutions, products and company.

4

### The SEA-EU Blue Talks

With Blue Talks we are trying to answer the question “What is the Blue Economy?”. Once a month, events are covering a mosaic of topics from various aspects of the economy related to the marine, maritime and allied sectors.

## Opportunity # 5: Participation in joint consultations

### The SEA-EU Alliance invites stakeholders to:

1

#### Participate in local consultation

To prepare a white paper on how Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Public Research Organizations (PROs) can foster creation of sustainable jobs and economy in: aquaculture, coastal tourism, marine biotechnology, ocean energy, seabed mining and other subsectors of Blue Economy.

2

#### Be part of the Observatory for Sustainable Blue Growth

Ultimate aim is to create a working network of professionals working in the Blue Economy sector to serve as an advisory and facilitator of regional and pan-European dialogue. Raising awareness, designing strategies, building capacities and transferring knowledge and technology.



# How can you start collaborating?

If you are interested in joining any of the SEA-EU opportunities for research collaboration, the members of the SEA-EU technical working group will be your main contact point.

Reach out if you would like to collaborate with specific research groups within the Alliance and/or collaboratively work on proposal and consortium development.

A SEA-EU Resources Potential Database is currently under construction. It will serve as a platform to scan for available research infrastructure at each partner university. This platform is intended for academics, researchers and stakeholders to support research collaboration.

The members of the SEA-EU Technical Managers are your contact persons and will be able to guide to the respective staff for further collaboration and proposals on specific fields and areas of topics.

Technical Managers:

Belén Chinchilla, University of Cadiz, [technicalmanager.seaeu@uca.es](mailto:technicalmanager.seaeu@uca.es)

Patrycja Oprawko, University of Gdańsk, [patrycja.oprawko@ug.edu.pl](mailto:patrycja.oprawko@ug.edu.pl)

Delphine Mutts, University of Western Brittany, [delphine.muths@univ-brest.fr](mailto:delphine.muths@univ-brest.fr)

Jonathan Durgadoo, University of Kiel, [jdurgadoo@kms.uni-kiel.de](mailto:jdurgadoo@kms.uni-kiel.de)

Ivana Jadric, University of Split, [ivana.jadric@unist.hr](mailto:ivana.jadric@unist.hr)

Maria Calleja, University of Malta, [maria.calleja@um.edu.mt](mailto:maria.calleja@um.edu.mt)