

The logo for SEA-EU, featuring the word 'sea' in a stylized, lowercase, white font with a wave-like pattern, followed by 'EU' in a bold, uppercase, white font. The logo is set against a dark blue rectangular background.

SEA-EU AND ITS ROLE IN THE BLUE ECONOMY

Patrícia Pinto
University of Algarve

Algarve Blue Economy Innovation and European Funds, CCDR Algarve

9 April 2026



European Universities initiative

Transnational alliances of higher education institutions, paving the way towards the universities of the future.

About the initiative

The European Universities alliances are part of a flagship initiative of the European strategy for universities. They encompass **73 European Universities alliances with almost 650 higher education institutions** of all types, from all across Europe.

[Read about how the alliances work and what organisations can become partners](#)



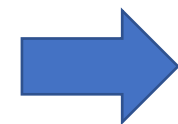
SEA-EU: The European University of the Seas

Alliance of 9 **European coastal universities** (Cadiz, Bretagne Occidentale, Kiel, Gdansk, Split, Malta, Naples, Algarve and NORD).

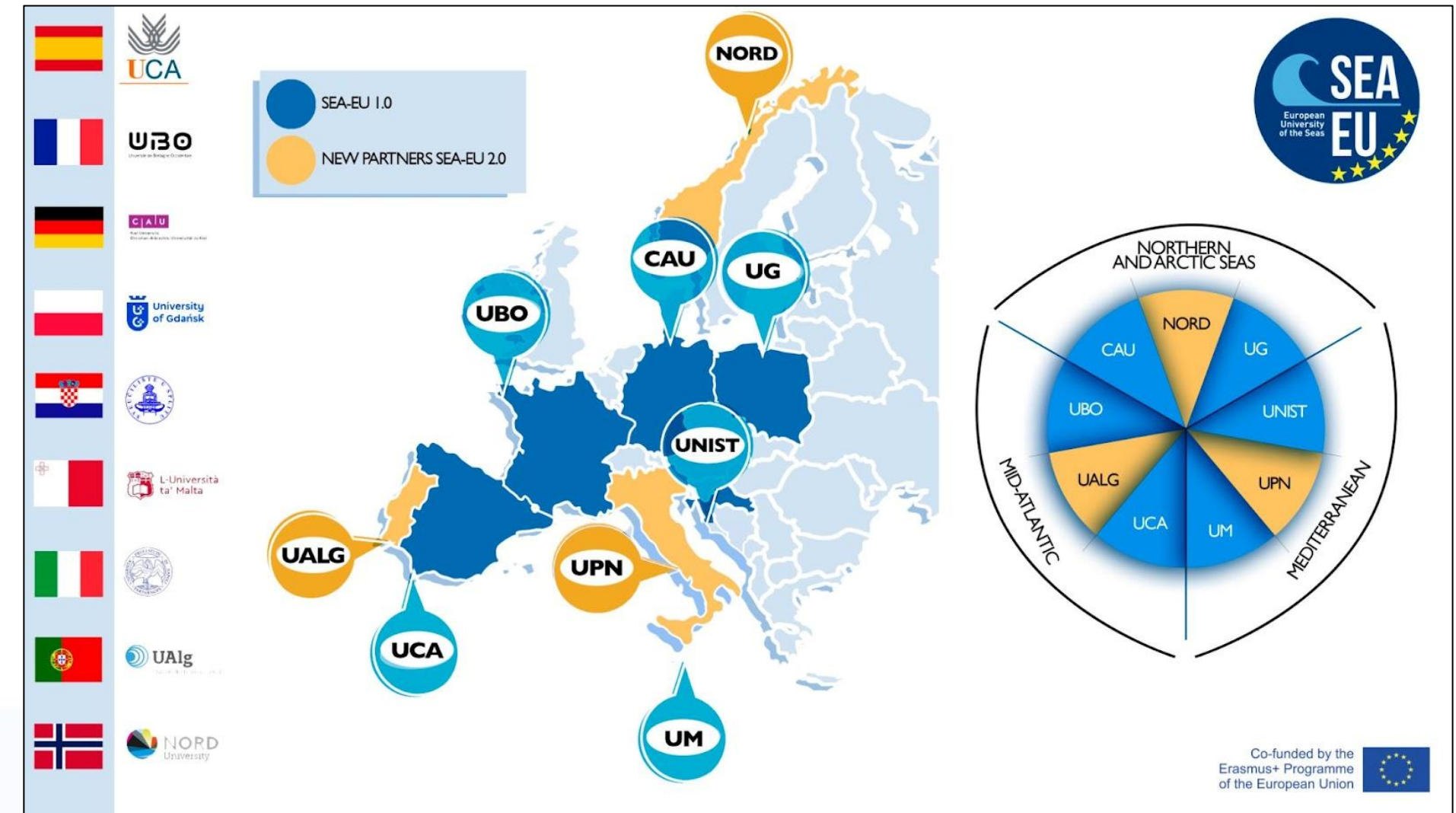
We want to become an inter-university and pluridisciplinary **European Supercampus** located in 9 peripheral cities united by the coast and the **European values**.

First generation of Alliances in the “**European Universities Initiative**”:

2019: **SEA-EU 1.0**; renewed in 2023: **SEA-EU 2.0**



- Geographically- balanced
- Coastal and marine-maritime character as its hallmark



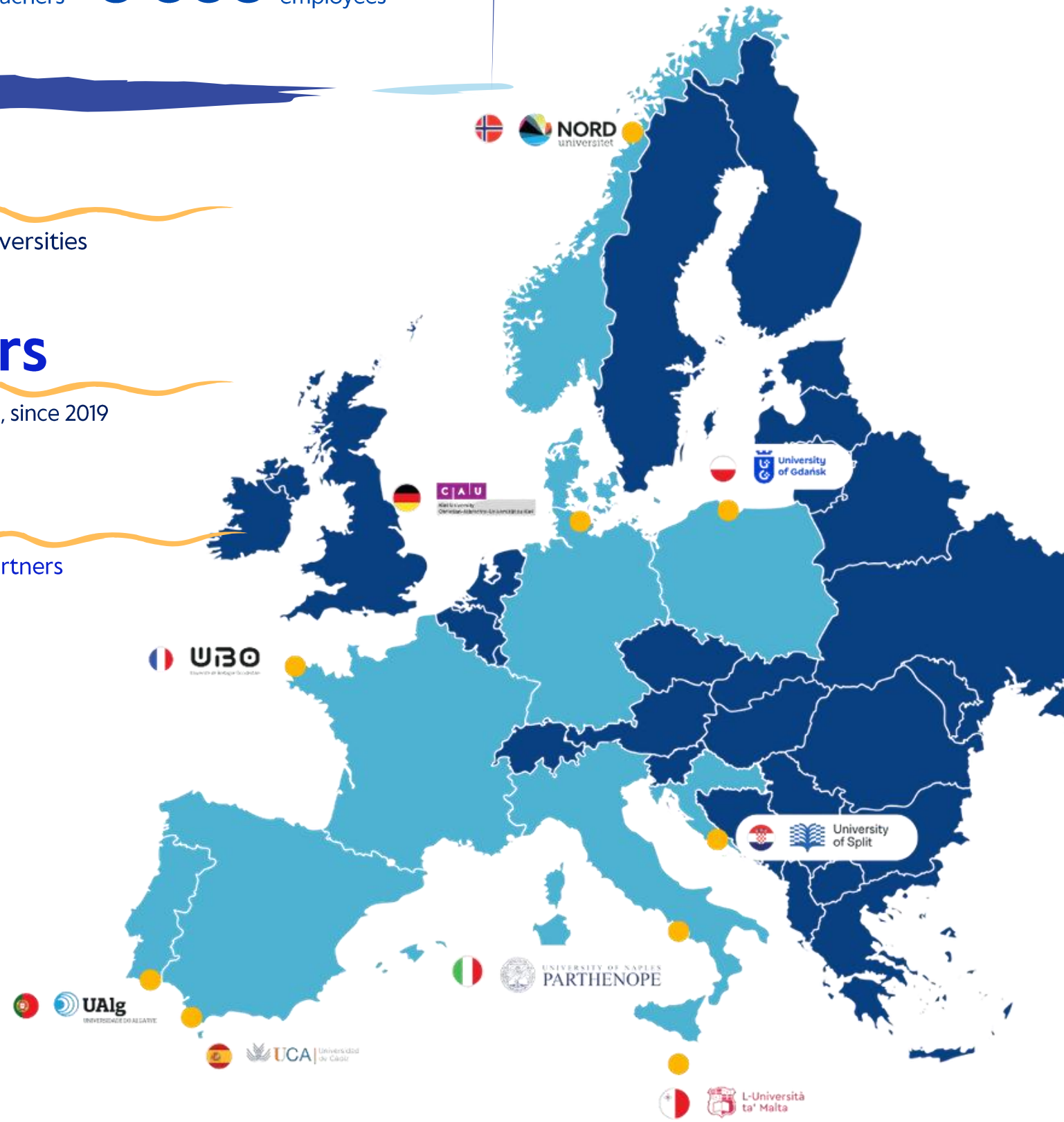
150 000
SEA-EU universities students

10 000 academic teachers **8 000** administration employees

9
partner universities

7 years
of cooperation, since 2019

39
external partners



Context

The sea that unites us

The University of Algarve (UAlg) is proud to be part of the European University of the Seas (SEA-EU) since 2022, established under the European Union’s “European Universities” initiative, a programme that aims to strengthen cooperation, mobility and innovation in European higher education.

UAlg’s participation in SEA-EU represents a clear commitment to a more cohesive Europe, one that is aware of and responsive to the challenges faced by coastal regions.

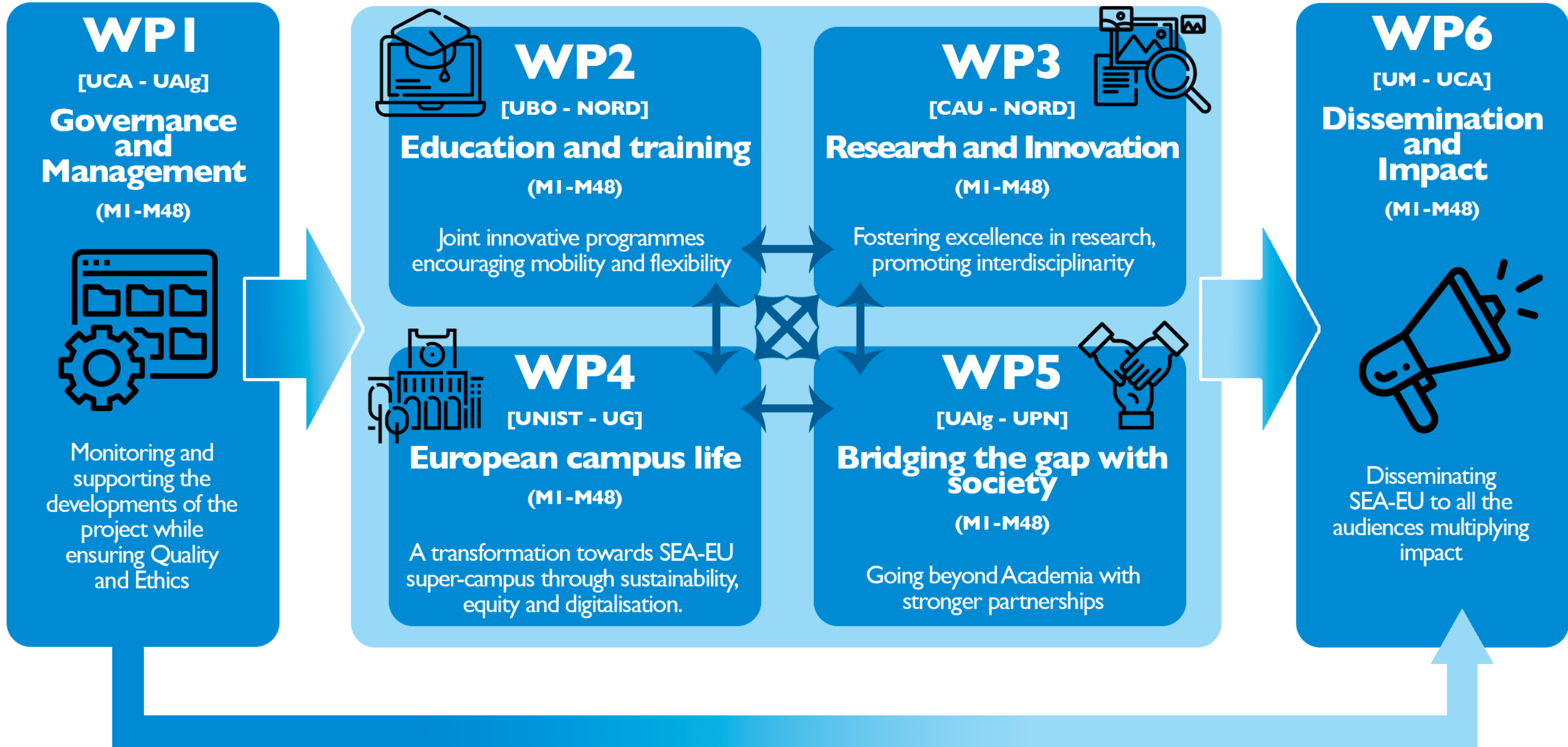
SEA-EU offers a wide range of opportunities, including courses, mobility programmes and joint degrees for its community, enhancing careers and enriching lives. Emphasising an inclusive, flexible and adventurous spirit, it connects individuals, bridging distances and inviting them to explore the vast opportunities of the European University of the Seas.

SEA-EU Specific Objectives

1. Higher level of integration.
2. Mobility.
3. Diversity of training pathways.
4. Marine and maritime fields.
5. Inclusion, diversity, gender equality and a healthy campus.
6. Sustainability (SDGs).
7. Digital transformation.
8. English and multilingualism.
9. Link to society.
10. Co-creation mechanism with Stakeholders.
11. SEA-EU as a role model in Europe and internationally.



SEA-EU Workplan

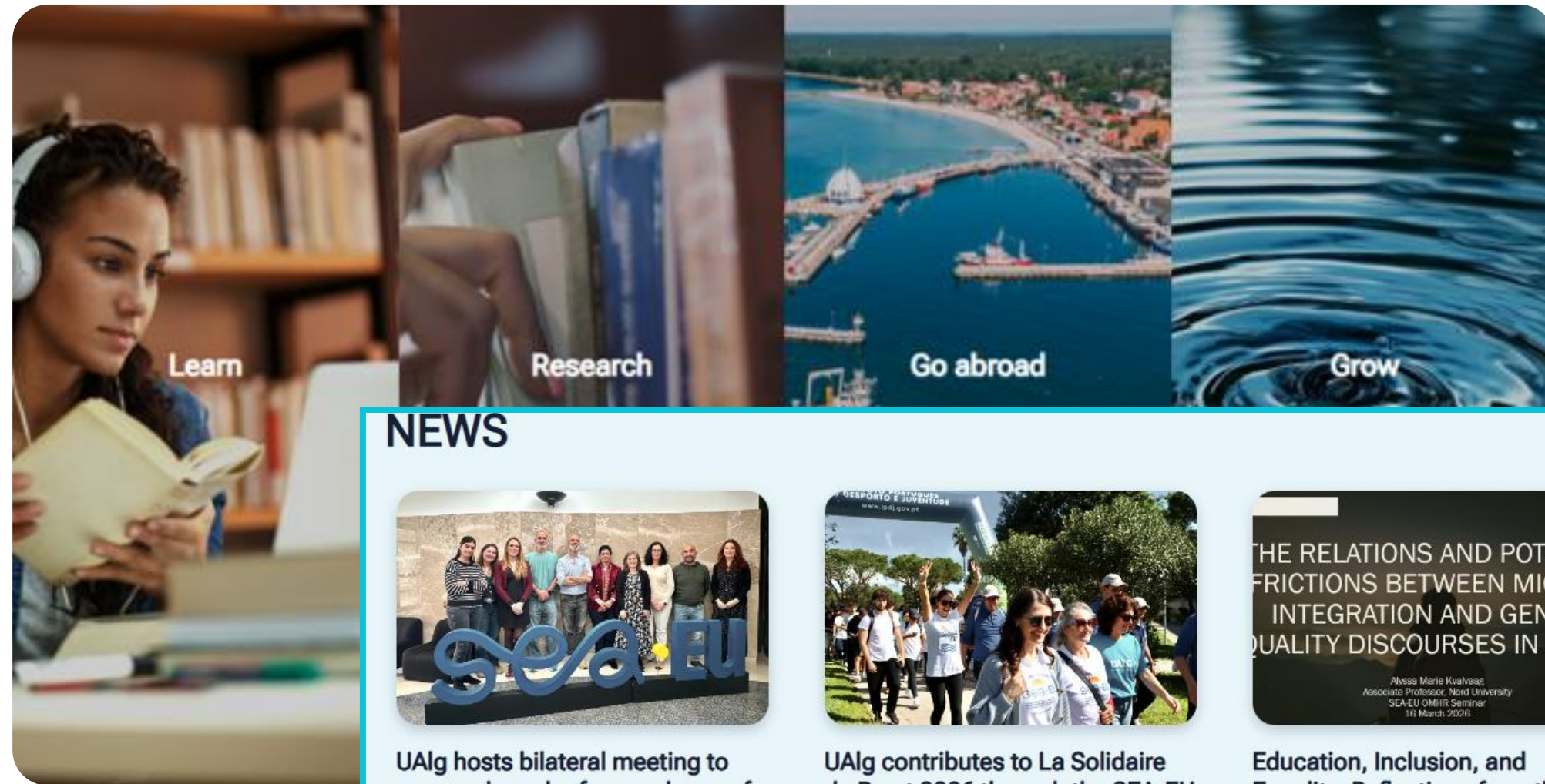


SEA-EU Website

Alliance Portal

The SEA-EU website (<https://sea-eu.org>) serves as the Alliance's main information and communication platform, bringing together content on academic opportunities, research projects, innovation initiatives and stakeholder-related activities.

It therefore acts as a central hub connecting universities, students, researchers and external partners, reflecting SEA-EU's collaborative work and its impact at both European and regional levels.



NEWS



UAlg hosts bilateral meeting to prepare launch of second year of SeaBluE joint degree

[Learn more](#)



UAlg contributes to La Solidaire de Brest 2026 through the SEA-EU 4th Solidarity and Inclusive Run and Walk

[Learn more](#)



Education, Inclusion, and Equality: Reflections from the Latest Observatory of Migration and Human Rights Online Seminar

[Learn more](#)



"10 Minutes SEA-EU" brings the Alliance closer to 1,575 undergraduate students at UAlg

[Learn more](#)



New edition of the "Second Life" Fair reinforces UAlg's commitment to sustainability

[Learn more](#)



Online Seminar to Explore the Relationship Between Migrant Integration and Gender Equality in Norway

[Learn more](#)

Key benefits of SEA-EU for UAlg and for the region

1. Strengthening mobility and internationalisation

Students become part of an extended European campus, with access to learning opportunities, research activities and cultural experiences across partner universities. Mobility, whether physical or virtual, broadens horizons, enriches academic pathways and better prepares them for a global context.

3. Pedagogical innovation and new programmes

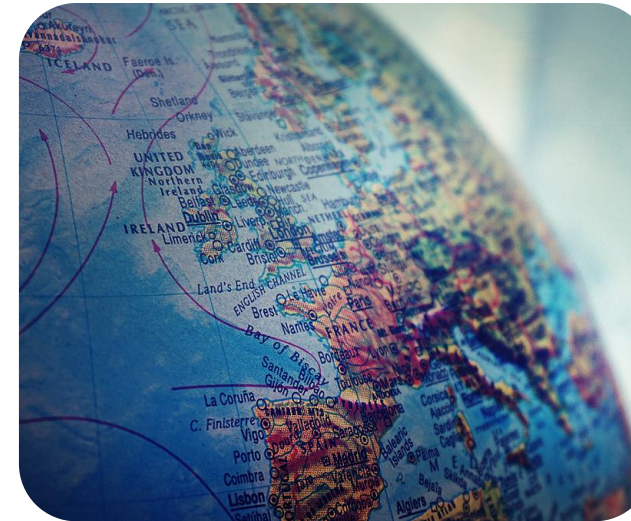
The Alliance drives the creation of joint programmes, new teaching methodologies and innovative learning pathways. These developments contribute to a richer educational offer and to the establishment of truly European degrees, aligned with the demands of the global market.

2. Strengthening scientific cooperation

SEA-EU promotes the development of collaborative projects and stronger European consortia, capable of addressing global challenges. This framework facilitates access to European funding and encourages joint work between international teams.

4. Regional impact and sustainable development

International cooperation strengthens UAlg's role as a driver of regional development, promoting innovation, knowledge transfer and support for the Algarve's strategic sectors. The region positions itself as a living laboratory for sustainable solutions and science-based public policies.



sea·EU for Students



Master Research internships

SEA-EU Research Internship is an offer of 2-12 month practice at other research university from SEA-EU

1



Virtual courses & programmes

The SEA-EU virtual courses promote virtual student mobility, international learning, language skills and collaboration in interdisciplinary topics

2



Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs)

A blended intensive programme is a set of short, intensive programmes that use innovative forms of learning and teaching, including the use of online cooperation

3



SEA-EU Joint Programmes

SEA-EU joint programmes are higher education degrees developed and delivered by multiple universities within the SEA-EU Alliance

4



Cultural and Sport events

At SEA-EU, we're all about diving deep into a world where culture clashes with sports in the best way possible

5

Education: Joint Programmes

SEA-EU has developed innovative joint programmes that directly address the challenges of the blue economy:

- SeaBluE (Bachelor's in Sustainable Blue Economy)
- MIPMAL (Port Management and Logistics)
- STORM (Sustainability Transition and Resilience)

These programmes:

- Are delivered across multiple countries
- Promote mandatory mobility
- Connect academia with strategic sectors
- train highly qualified profiles for the blue economy

SeaBluE

- Developed by seven European universities
- 3 years | 180 ECTS | taught in English
- Includes 12 months of mandatory international mobility
- Addresses challenges such as climate change, marine pollution and sustainable resource management

Role of UAIG:

- Hosts the second year of the programme
- Co-develops the curriculum
- Participates in the pathway “Blue Industries: Tourism and Seafood”





SEA-EU Staff Weeks
*Short mobilities for staff
with a clear theme*



SEA-EU International Weeks
*Bring together scholars, educators, and
community voices*



Online courses
*A diverse range of courses for
lecturers*



SEA-EU Secondments
*Medium-term mobilities for young
scientists*



Research Potential Database
*Find a research partner in a detailed directory
of SEA-EU research groups*



Seed Funds
*Seek funding opportunities for
joint projects*

Workshop: Generative AI in Research: Critical, Responsible and Applied

 University of Malta
  Two sessions of 3 hours each (6 hours in total)
  Published: 11 March, 2026

[More info](#)

Webinar: MSCA-PF Info Session

 University of Malta
  Published: 2 February, 2026

[More info](#)

Workshop: The Nagoya-Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing

 University of Kiel
  Published: 28 January, 2026

[More info](#)

Short courses for lecturers: Presentation design

 Universidade do Algarve
  January 21, 2026, 10:00-13:00 CET
  Published: 30 November, 2025

Staff Week - Science Show Trainers' Staff Week

Kiel, Germany, Onsite: 29 June - 3 July 2026

[More info](#)

Staff Week International students recruitment with a special focus on non-EU citizens

University of Gdańsk, 28-30.04.2026

[More info](#)

Staff Week - English for Administrative Staff

Brest, 16-18 June 2026

[More info](#)

Erasmus Staff Week "From the Vision to Practice: Co-Creating Green and Digital Teaching Innovations for Sustainability"

Faro, 23-27 March 2026

[More info](#)

Staff Testimonials

It enhances motivation and the quality of European teaching. It improves connections among professionals.



Inma Álvarez (UCA)
 Visited the
 University of Kiel

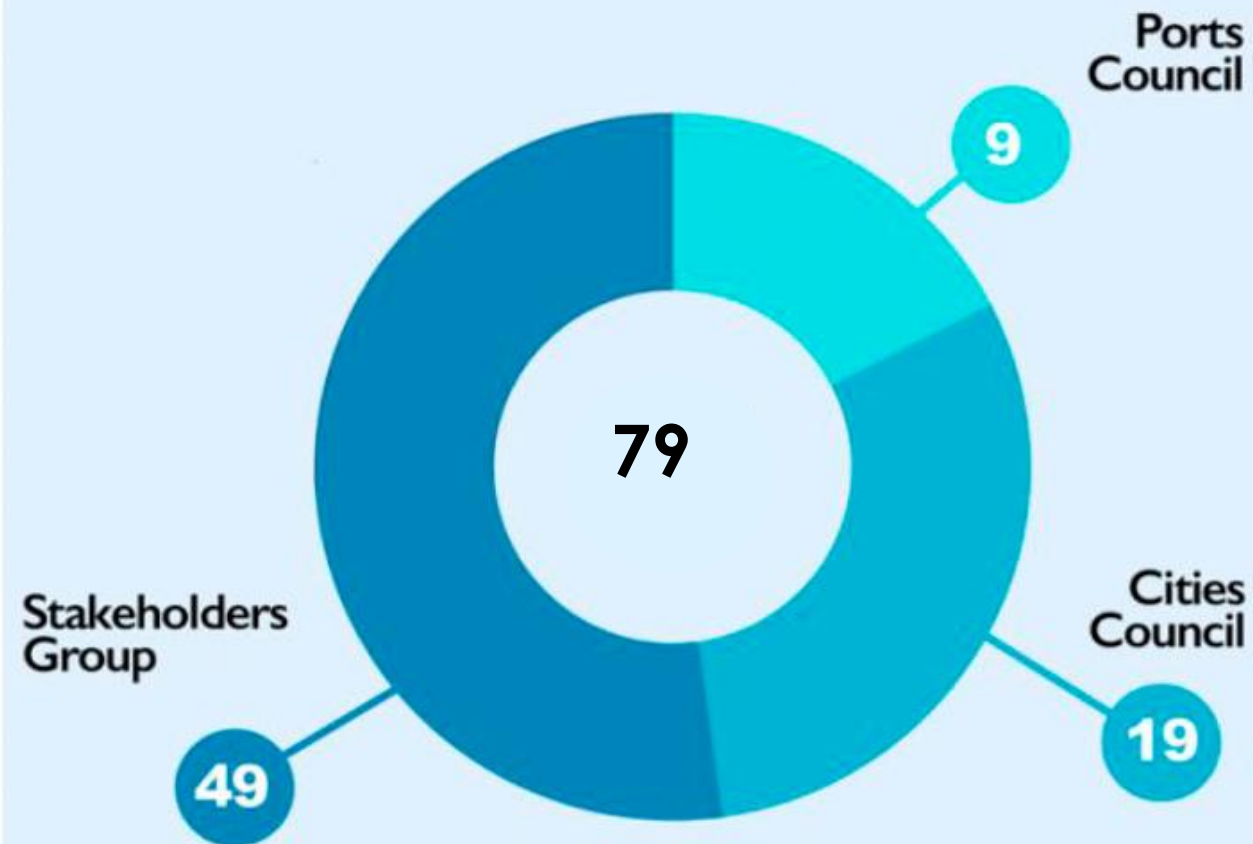
sea·EU

SEA-EU for Associated Partners

SEA-EU 2.0 Associated Partners

UCA	UBO	CAU	UG	UNIST	UM	UAIg	UPN	NORD
12	8	7	7	11	6	10	6	9

In SEA-EU Bodies



WWMU WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY

Odesa I.I. Mechnikov National University

SEA-EU operates in close collaboration with regional and i stakeholders, creating an extended ecosystem that connects universities, territory and the economy.

SEA-EU for Associated Partners

Public Bodies

 CCDR Algarve Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Algarve Visit website >>	 AMAL Comunidade Intermunicipal do Algarve Visit website >>	 Águas do Algarve Grupo Águas do Portugal Visit website >>	 centro ciência viva algarve CCVAIlg Visit website >>	 Autorità di Sistema Portuale del Mar Tirreno Centrale Visit website >>	 IPMA Visit website >>
 visit Algarve Portugal RTA – Região de Turismo do Algarve Visit website >>	 Atos ATOS Visit website >>	 PORT GDANSK Port of Gdańsk Authority SA Visit website >>	 SH Schleswig-Holstein Der echte Norden Visit website >>	 Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture under the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Rights Visit website >>	 ERA Environment Resource Authority Visit website >>
 Ambjent Malta Visit website >>	 aquatic RESOURCES MALTA Aquatic Resources Malta Visit website >>	 Xjenza MALTA Xjenza Malta Visit website >>	 COMUNE DI NAPOLI Municipality of Napoli Visit website >>	 Msida Local Council Visit website >>	 ВООГРАДСКИ ВОДОВОД И КАНАЛИЗАЦИЈА Vodovod i kanalizacija Visit website >>
 Institut za Oceanografiju i Ribarstvo Split Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries Visit website >>	 Brest METROPOLE & VILLE Ville de Brest Visit website >>	 Région BRETAGNE Region Bretagne Visit website >>			

Private Companies

 MARE Visit website >>	 SALONA VAR Salona Var Visit website >>	 SVPETRVS Waterman Waterman Resorts Visit website >>	 ERICSSON Nikola Tesla Visit website >>
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Marine Enterprises

 Aquabiotech Group Aquabiotech Visit website >>	 Cromaris Visit website >>	 Navantia Visit website >>	 Océanopolis BREST Oceanopolis Visit website >>
 POLE MER BRETAGNE ATLANTIQUE Pole Mer Bretagne Visit website >>			

SEA-EU for Associated Partners

Research Institutions



CEIMAR
[Visit website >>](#)



Campus Technology foundation Algeiras
[Visit website >>](#)



ICMAN - CSIC
[Visit website >>](#)



IFREMER
[Visit website >>](#)



Campus MM
[Visit website >>](#)



GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel
[Visit website >>](#)



IPN - Leibniz Institute for Science and Mathematics Education
[Visit website >>](#)



KDM - German Marine Research Consortium e.V.s
[Visit website >>](#)



Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Sciences (IO PAN)
[Visit website >>](#)



MAR.TE.
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IAS-CNR
[Visit website >>](#)



CCMAR
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NCE Aquaculture
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Nordlandsforskning
[Visit website >>](#)



InnovAvena
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SALT
[Visit website >>](#)



Gdańsk University of Technology
[Visit website >>](#)



National School of Engineers of Brest
[Visit website >>](#)



ACT Cluster
[Visit website >>](#)



Stazione Zoologica A. Dohrn
[Visit website >>](#)

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)



Cádiz Maritime Naval Cluster
[Visit website >>](#)



Italian Technology Cluster "Blue Italian Growth"
[Visit website >>](#)



Baltic Sea & Space Cluster
[Visit website >>](#)



Gdansk Foundation for Management Development
[Visit website >>](#)



Gdańsk Entrepreneurship Foundation
[Visit website >>](#)



DIH Agrifood Croatia
[Visit website >>](#)



Sunce association
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Sciaena, Oceanos, Conservação, Sensibilização
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ESN CÁDIZ
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ESN Croatia
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ESN Malta
[Visit website >>](#)



ESN Polska
[Visit website >>](#)



KSU - UM's Student Council
[Visit website >>](#)



Association MOST
[Visit website >>](#)



The Nautilus Project
[Visit website >>](#)



Octopolis Foundation
[Visit website >>](#)

SEA-EU Global Strategy



12-13 JANUARY 2024
UNIVERSITY OF ALGARVE
FARO, PORTUGAL

SEA-EU
CONGRESS

Strong Partnership to Face Challenges
and Achieve Sustainable Development Goals



SEA-EU Global Gateway Declaration document. 42 legal representatives of the SEA-EU Alliance universities, external universities, and associated partners were the signatories to this important agreement. With this declaration, the SEA-EU Alliance reaffirms its unwavering commitment to create a gateway for sustainable international cooperation based on mutual trust, knowledge sharing, and empathy among peoples.



Blue Economy as a strategic pillar

The blue economy lies at the heart of SEA-EU's identity, positioning the Alliance as a European platform for cooperation to address coastal and maritime challenges in an integrated way.

The Alliance operates across 3 key dimensions:

Education and capacity building

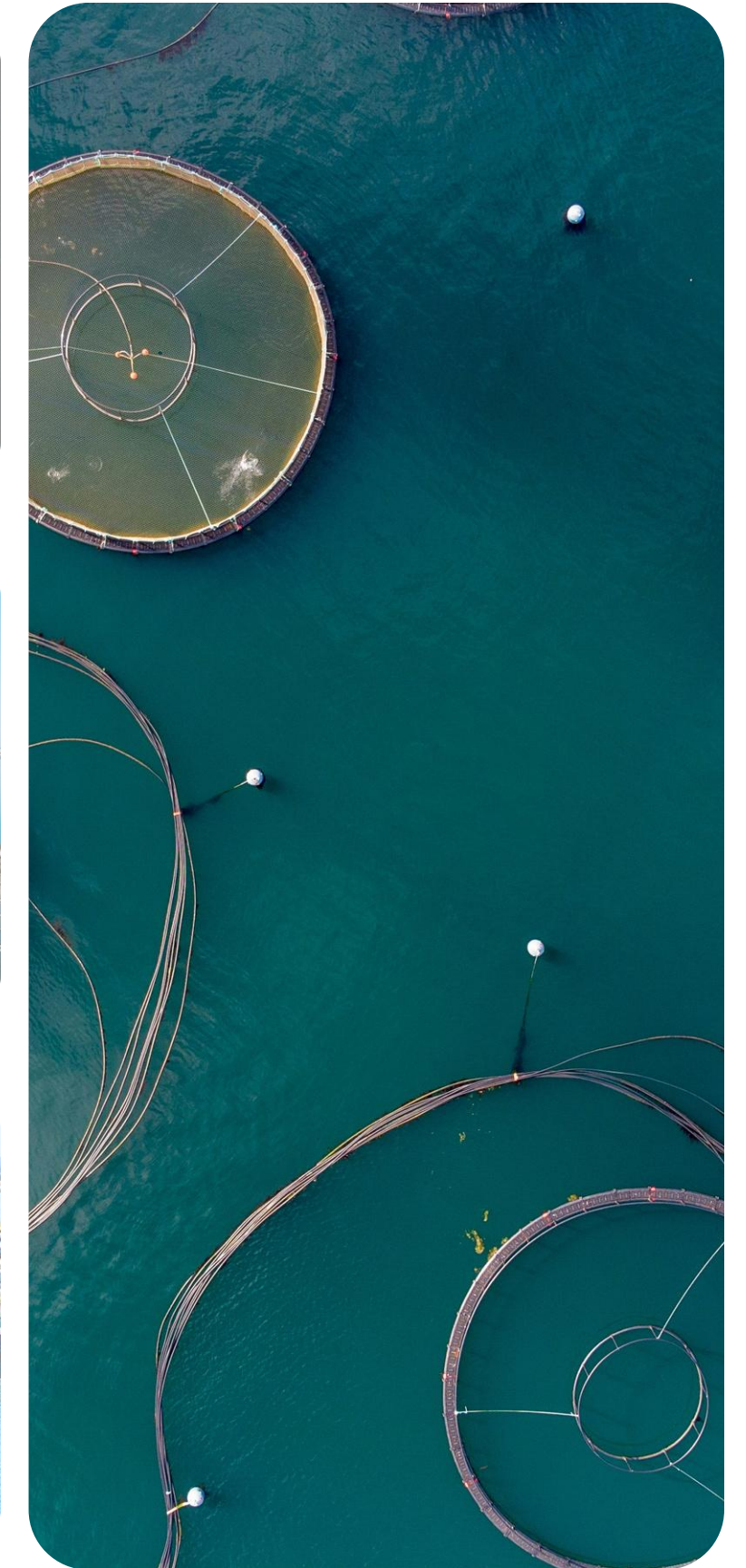
- Development of joint programmes and specialised training for “blue jobs”

Research and Innovation

- Promotion of collaborative research focused on marine and coastal sustainability

Decision-making support and public policy

- Collaboration with stakeholders and Production of evidence and tools (e.g. OSBE) to support regional strategies



Blue Economy - Education and capacity building

Joint Bachelor Programme in

Sustainable Blue Economy

SHAPING GLOBAL LEADERS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

ENROLL IN OUR JOINT PROGRAMMES

sea·EU | SeaBluE

SeaBluE
STUDENT HANDBOOK

This document provides an overview of the programme's main objectives and course structure, as well as the current regulations regarding the academic courses, internships, and the Bachelor's Project.

[OPEN HANDBOOK](#)

SeaBluE
STUDY PROGRAMME, COURSES, PATHWAYS

[OPEN DOCUMENT](#)

Call for Applications 2026/2027:

Phase 1: Non-EU Candidates – 10 February – deadline: 30 April

Phase 2: EU Candidates – opening 1 May – deadline: 20 July

(covering the 27 Member States of the European Union (EU), together with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein)

Phase 3: EU Candidates – opening 21 July – deadline: 6 September

(covering the 27 Member States of the European Union (EU), together with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein)

[APPLY NOW](#)

Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs) – Training on Blue Economy with impact on the territory

Example 1 – “Maritime Data Literacy” (Kiel)

A programme focused on maritime data literacy, equipping students to analyse and interpret ocean data.

Contribution to the blue economy:

- Development of digital and scientific skills
- Support for ocean monitoring and sustainable management

Example 2 – “Sustainability and Social Innovation on the Move” (Culatra, Algarve)

A programme focused on the sustainability of coastal communities, with an in-person component on Culatra Island.

Highlights:

- Integrated approach: energy, water, tourism, food and communities
- Direct connection to the territory (e.g. Culatra 2030, local communities)
- Topics such as desalination, sustainable tourism and food production

Contribution to the blue economy:

- Practical application of sustainable solutions
- Engagement with coastal communities
- Link between academic knowledge and local realities



Blue Economy - Education and capacity building

Blended Intensive Program – Sustainability and Social Innovation on the Move

Important note:
 Students interested in this program have to apply to their home university according to the internal procedure.
 Student applications made directly to the hosting institution will not be considered.

General information

Course Title	Sustainability and Social Innovation on the Move
Coordinating institution	University of Algarve (UAlg) Erasmus code: PT FARO 02
ISCED code:	0521 Environmental Sciences 031 Social and Behavioral Sciences
Partner institutions	University of Gdańsk (UG) University of Naples Parthenope (UPN)
BIP Code	2024-1-PT01-KA131-HED-000214659-1
Abstract: (a few lines describing the course)	This course is intended to explore the concept of sustainability and its significance in addressing global challenges such as climate change, resource decrease, and biodiversity loss. We examine the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic systems and how they impact on sustainability efforts. Through case studies and discussions, participants learn about sustainable practices in various sectors, including energy, water cycle, seafood production and tourism. Additionally, we explore strategies to promote sustainability at individual, organizational, and community levels. It addresses environmental, sustainable, and social/community strategies, synchronized with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, it is an opportunity for the participants to gain a comprehensive understanding of sustainability principles and to have insight of practical cases to contribute to a more sustainable future.
Number of ECTS	4 ECTS (40 hours)
Calendar	*Nominations by home university until: 15/04/2025

Sustainability and Social Innovation on the Move

Faro (Culatra), Portugal - July 2026

Virtual part: 9-11 July
On-site part (Culatra Island): 13-17 July

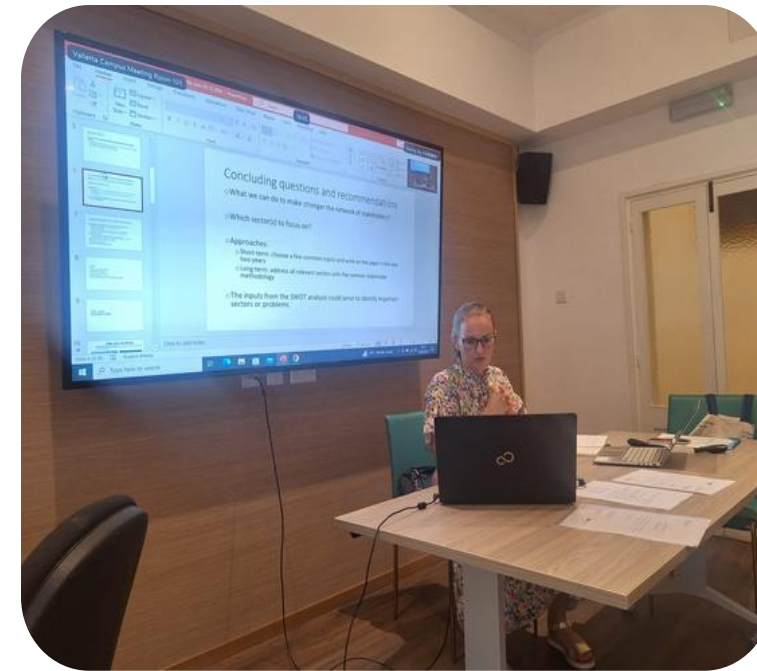
Blue Economy - Education and capacity building

Staff Week – Blue Economy (Malta, 2024)

SEA-EU organised a Staff Week dedicated to the blue economy, bringing together researchers and experts from partner universities to develop collaborative work within the framework of OSBE (Observatory of the Sustainable Blue Economy).

Key contributions

The Staff Week enabled the identification of common research areas within the blue economy, fostering a shared vision among the Alliance's universities. In parallel, priority strategic topics were identified, such as sustainable nautical tourism, green ports and marine resource management.



Blue Economy – Research and Innovation

SEA-EU promotes collaborative research and innovation through mechanisms that support both researchers and students, contributing to the development of sustainable solutions in the blue economy.

● Seed Fund – SEA-EU Research Initiation Support Fund

Example: POSEIDON Project

A collaborative project between the University of Algarve and the University of Malta, funded by the SEA-EU Seed Fund, **focused on the sustainability of the blue economy. It analyses how different coastal stakeholders (fishers, tourism operators, authorities and communities) perceive and manage the transition towards more sustainable models.**

Impact



Blue Economy – Decision-making support and public policy

Observatory of the Sustainable Blue Economy (OSBE)

SEA-EU places the ocean at the core as a unifying element among partner universities, with the creation of the Observatory of the Sustainable Blue Economy (OSBE) standing as one of its most ambitious initiatives.

Mission

To facilitate regional dialogue and promote an effective network of stakeholders in the maritime sector, contributing to the objectives of sustainable development in the blue economy in Europe.

Vision

To create a platform that connects researchers, professionals and relevant authorities associated with the Alliance's universities, promoting collaboration and impact across territories.



Main functions of the OSBE

- **Providing access to relevant data and information:** centralises and shares environmental and socio-economic data related to the blue economy.
- **Acting as a knowledge exchange point:** facilitates the transfer of knowledge and research results from universities and research centres to the economy.
- **Functioning as a discussion platform:** supports dialogue around the needs and challenges of blue economy sectors.
- **Bringing stakeholders together:** serves as a meeting point for academia, industry and public authorities to exchange ideas and best practices.
- **Facilitating research and collaboration:** promotes data sharing and the development of joint projects.
- **Supporting education and training:** encourages the creation of new formal and informal learning opportunities in the field of the blue economy.
- **Fostering new partnerships:** stimulates collaboration and the development of new projects across regions and sectors.
- **Strengthening capacities:** contributes to the development of skills, knowledge and qualifications within the blue economy ecosystem.



Knowledge to support coastal management: “Annual State of the Coast”

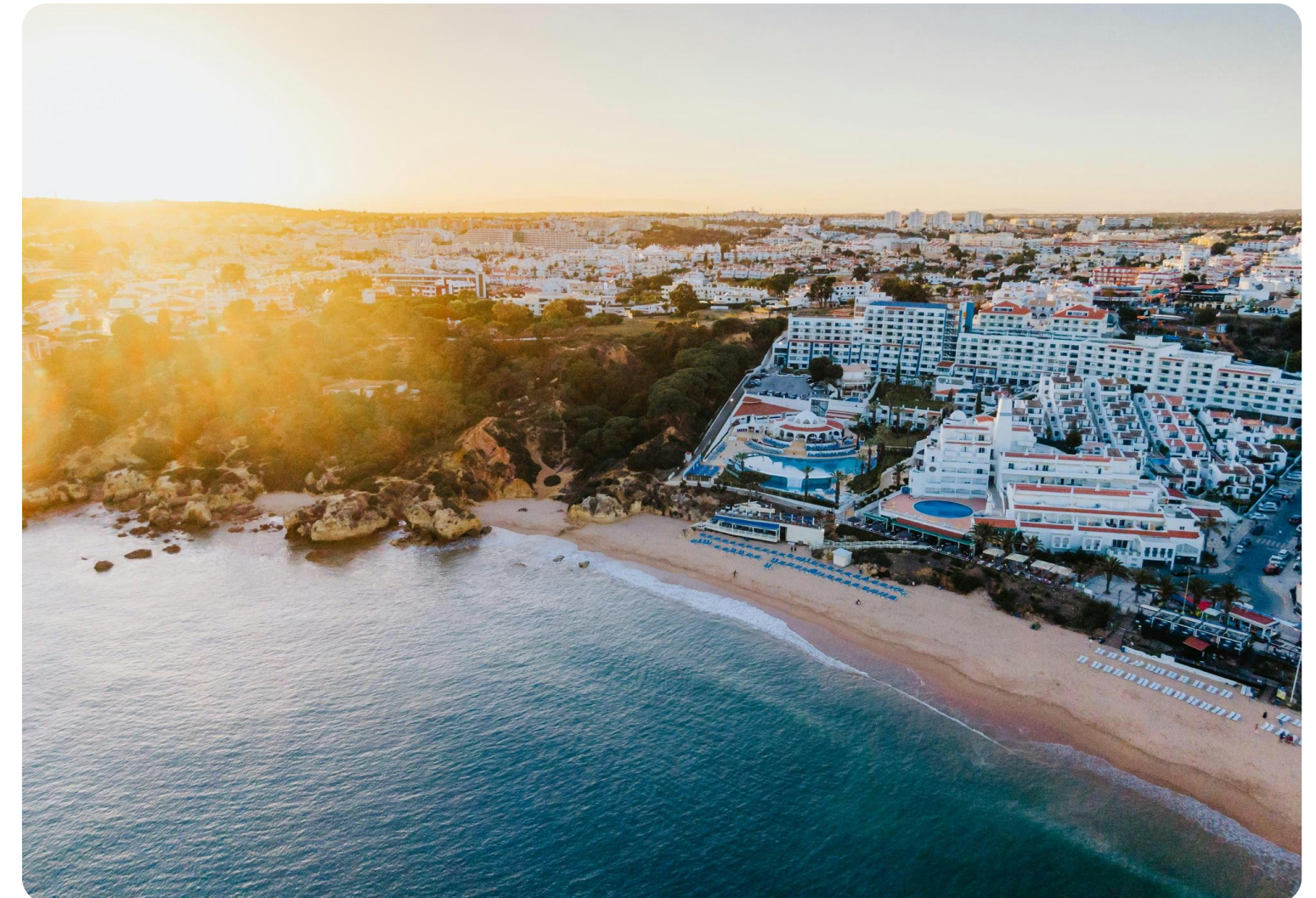
SEA-EU developed the report “Annual State of the Coast” (2024 and 2025), a comparative study across SEA-EU regions based on a SWOT analysis, identifying common trends, structural challenges and best practices in coastal and maritime management.

Key findings

- High overlap of uses: fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, maritime transport and protected areas coexist within the same zones
- A situation common to several regions, including the Algarve
- Vulnerability to climate change (sea level rise, extreme events)
- Loss of biodiversity and habitat degradation
- Pollution and invasive species
- Strong dependence on tourism (e.g. Algarve, Cádiz, Split)
- Lack of coordination between sectors and levels of governance
- Conflicts between economic development and conservation

Identified opportunities

- Growth of sustainable and scientific tourism
- Development of the blue economy (marine biotechnology, renewable energy)
- Use of digital technologies, AI and remote monitoring for coastal management
- Interregional cooperation and access to European funding



[Annual State of the Coast \(PDF\)](#)

Innovation Ecosystems in the Blue Economy Report



What does this study do?

- Maps blue economy stakeholders (ports, companies, universities, authorities, communities)
 - Analyses the coastal ecosystems of the nine universities
- identifies strengths, weaknesses and opportunities
- Defines common strategic guidelines
- aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals

Key contributions

- Creation of an integrated vision of the European blue economy
- Identification of collaboration models between science, industry and territory
- Foundation for the development of policies, projects and training aligned with market needs

Impact

- Strengthens the connection between universities and the real economy
- Supports decision-making by public and regional authorities
- Positions SEA-EU as a strategic platform for innovation in the blue economy

[Maritime Innovation
Ecosystem \(PDF\)](#)

SEA-EU White Paper: Skills for the Blue Economy

A strategic document developed in 2022 (and continuously updated) within the framework of OSBE, analysing how SEA-EU universities can contribute to job creation and sustainable growth in the blue economy by aligning academic training with labour market needs.

Contribution

- Identification of skills gaps
- Alignment between education, research and the economic sector
- Focus on key sectors (aquaculture, coastal tourism, biotechnology, ocean energy)

Impact

- Support for the definition of education and employment policies
- Promotion of qualified and sustainable employment
- Strengthening the connection between universities, businesses and the territory



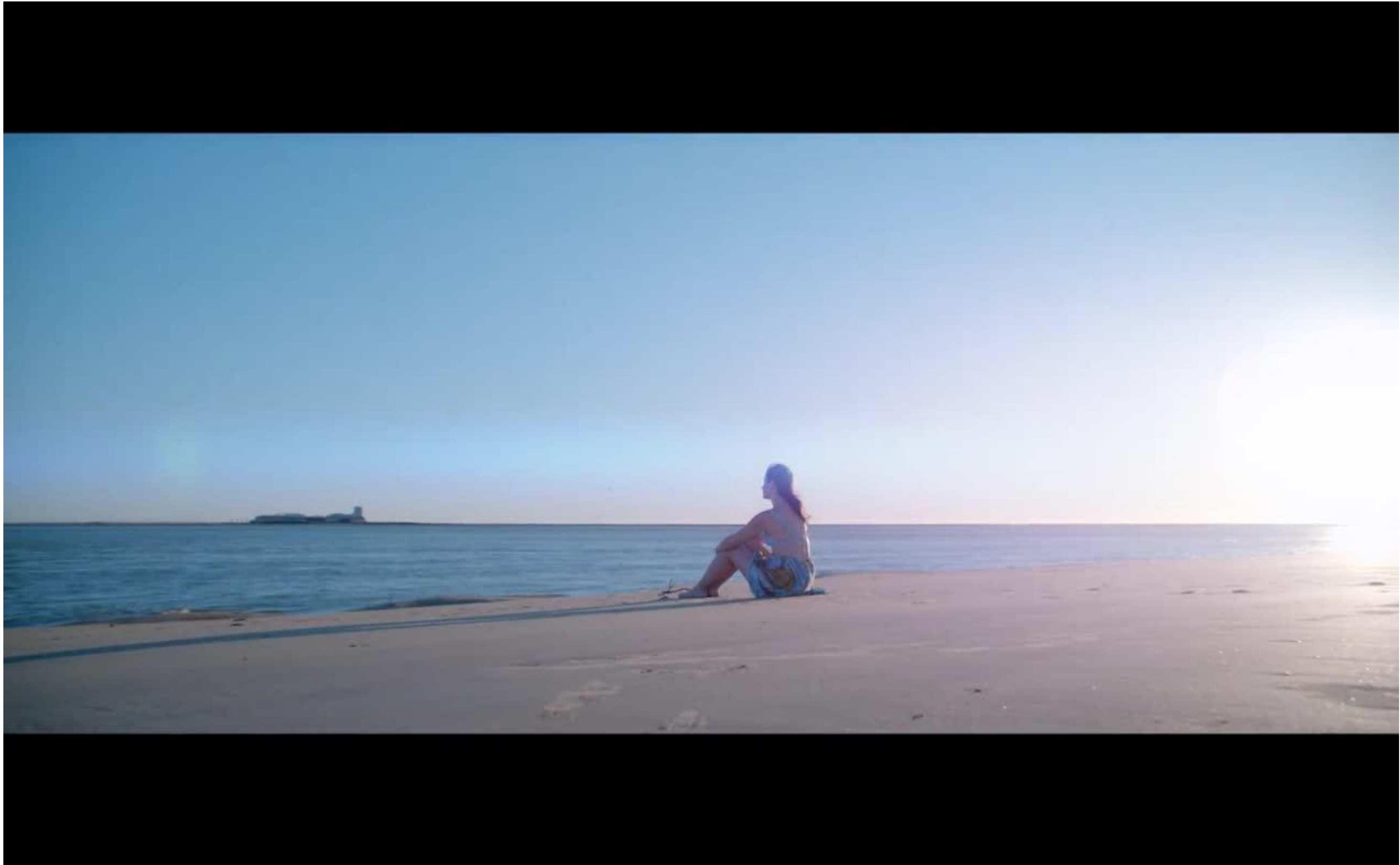
The European University of the Seas

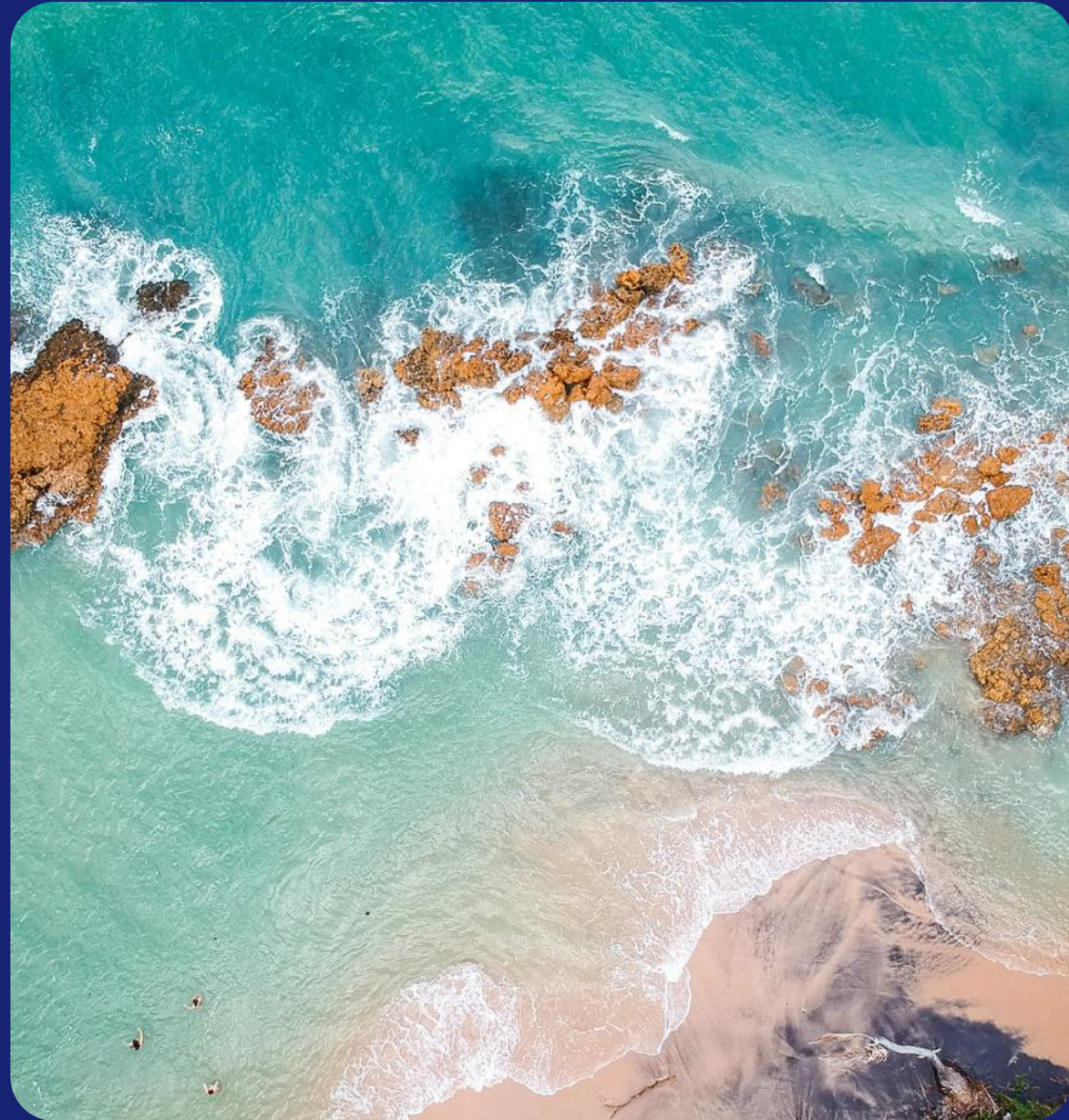
How HEIs and PROs can foster creation of sustainable jobs and growth in aquaculture, coastal tourism, marine biotechnology, ocean energy and seabed mining

Report written by prof. Srećko Goić, PhD,
University of Split

November 2022

[White Paper \(PDF\)](#)





***SEA-EU is not just an academic alliance
— it is a concrete tool for regional
development and the blue economy.***

Thank you for your attention.