

Futures Bootcamp

The futures bootcamp aims to create a space for scholars to discuss the future of a sustainable blue bioeconomy and identify innovative solutions for advancing the blue bioeconomy in the regions.

The blue bioeconomy offers regions the opportunity to develop innovative bio-based products and services across diverse sectors of economic activity related to the oceans, seas and coasts. Realizing the blue bioeconomy requires knowledge, research and development and innovation as its main cornerstones. A challenge is to harness this opportunity whilst understanding the socio-economic implications of ocean-based activities and safeguarding the sustainable functioning and development of the natural and biophysical activities in the marine environment.

At present, the pathways towards achieving a sustainable blue bioeconomy remain open. A vision for the blue bioeconomy needs to be underpinned by common priorities about its strategic objectives and a clearly defined research agenda. To this end, universities have a relevant role to play by developing research capacity in marine and maritime areas and identifying the skills and research infrastructures needed to exploit the opportunities for innovation.

The future is unpredictable. Futures tools and approaches can help us understand the dynamics of change and provide a systematic framework to think about future pathways for the blue bioeconomy, enabling us to challenge current assumptions and explore the consequences of choices made. Foresight is used to inform strategy and prioritize research and innovation agendas in governments, corporations and businesses throughout Europe and beyond. In the bootcamp, we use a futures toolkit to better scope the issues pertaining to a transition to the blue bioeconomy and evaluate possible future pathways.

Who is invited

Researchers, academics, PhDs and Masters students in Marine and Maritime research areas involved in research activities related to the blue bioeconomy (maritime services, marine and ocean monitoring, blue energy, aquaculture, blue biotechnology, bioengineering, etc.).

Early-stage researchers and post-graduate students who have embarked on entrepreneurial activities in areas related to the blue bioeconomy.

What to expect

Throughout the program, participants will learn and practice a variety of futures and foresight tools and methods that will be used to:

- Analyse conflicts, opportunities and risks associated with developing a sustainable blue bioeconomy.
- Develop scenarios to explore innovative solutions for research to advance the blue bioeconomy applicable to the regions.
- Prioritize opportunities and think strategically on how to build inter-regional partnerships to exploit these innovation opportunities.

Learning Experience

The bootcamp aims to be an interactive learning experience during which participants are expected to take up an active role in the lectures and workshop sessions and work towards elaborating different future pathways for blue growth and develop innovative solutions. Participants commit to be actively involved in the discussions and plenary sessions, such as by taking up the role of rapporteur. On the last day, participants will pitch their futures work to a panel making the case for a future vision for research on the blue bioeconomy. The bootcamp is being organised back to back with the 'Science in the City' event on the 25th September that attracts hundreds of local scientists, researchers and the lay public to our capital city Valletta.

When

21st – 25th September 2020 (five full-days)

Where

University of Malta (Valletta campus)

How to apply?

In order to apply for this event please download, fill in and send a signed application form to sea-eu@ug.edu.pl

Deadline for the application is 05 June 2020.

Number of available places is limited!

Please **do not** book any travel or accommodation. If you are selected to participate in the Futures Bootcamp you will be contacted in relations to this matter.

Draft Programme Outline

Monday 21st September 2020	
Morning sessions	Registration
	Welcome
	Lecture: Foresight and the marine environment – an overview
	Workshop: Scanning Trends & Drivers of Change
	Lunch
Afternoon Sessions	Workshop: Ideation session
	Workshop: Innovation speed dating

Tuesday 22nd September 2020	
Morning sessions	Lecture: Smart specialisation - opportunities and challenges for regional innovation
	Presentation: Towards a research agenda for the blue bioeconomy
	Lecture: Science Fiction Futures
	Lunch

Afternoon Sessions	Workshop: Futures Wheels to analyse impacts of trends and drivers
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	Dinner

Wednesday 23rd September 2020	
Morning sessions	Lecture: Blue technologies
	Lecture: Scenarios, wild cards and weak signals
	Lunch
Afternoon Sessions	Teamwork: Developing scenarios for the future of the blue bioeconomy
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Thursday 24th September 2020	
Morning sessions	Morning tour
	Lunch
Afternoon sessions	Teamwork: Developing scenarios for the future of the blue bioeconomy

Friday 25th September 2020	
Morning sessions	Team presentations: Future scenarios for research collaboration
	Panel feedback
	Lunch
Afternoon Sessions	Learning Experience, Participant Feedback & Evaluation
	Testimonials on bootcamp experience
Evening	<i>Science in the City Event</i>