

Unleashing Youth Power in Transnational Innovation or a Thriving Blue Economy

Project Number: BSB00580

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The SEAQUEST project will advance innovation, sustainability, and growth within the blue economy sector in the Black Sea Basin. The project, funded under the Interreg VI-B NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme, tackles challenges such as environmental degradation, fragmented collaboration, and low technological uptake.

We will strive towards improving the economic and ecological health within the region by putting fresh emphasis on research and innovation, thus empowering youth with active participation in shaping their future. The project pursues transnational cooperation as a guarantee for sharing knowledge and jointly solving problems beyond state borders. Together with our partners, SEAQUEST envisions that the Black Sea Basin offers a shining example of a sustainable, innovative, and economically opportunistic area into the future.

Driving Change in the Blue Economy

SEAQUEST aims to create a sustainable and competitive blue economy by addressing the region's most pressing challenges and seizing its unique opportunities.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- **Fostering Research and Innovation:** Enhance the region's capacity to develop innovative solutions for sustainable economic activities.
- **Promoting Advanced Technologies:** Accelerate the adoption of tools such as AI, remote sensing, and data analytics in maritime industries.
- **Protecting the Environment:** Introduce sustainable practices to restore ecosystems and mitigate environmental degradation.
- **Empowering Youth:** Equip young people with the skills, resources, and opportunities to lead the transformation of the blue economy.
- **Building Networks:** Create robust, transnational platforms for collaboration and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders.

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Baseline Assessment and Stakeholder Mapping

A systematic evaluation of the current status of the blue economy in the Black Sea Basin, identifying key stakeholders and their roles. This activity sets the foundation for strategic planning and targeted interventions by mapping out the ecosystem of actors and resources.

Youth Needs Assessment and Regional Gap Analysis

A detailed analysis of the needs and challenges faced by young people in the blue economy, identifying regional disparities and gaps in opportunities. This activity provides critical insights to tailor interventions that address specific local and transnational challenges.

Policy Analysis and Recommendation Development

A comprehensive review of existing policies related to the blue economy, identifying barriers and opportunities for improvement. This activity produces actionable policy recommendations to support sustainable development and technological innovation in the region.

Stakeholder Engagement Workshops

A set of workshops to bring together stakeholders from various sectors. These sessions focus on fostering dialogue, building partnerships, and co-creating solutions to address shared challenges in the blue economy.

Definition of Objectives and Key Principles of the Platform's Framework

A structured and collaborative framework to connect stakeholders across borders, facilitating continuous knowledge sharing, cooperation, and coordinated action to strengthen the blue economy.

Defining the operational framework and activities

The activity of defining the operational framework and activities is essential for outlining the structure, focus areas, and specific initiatives of the sustainable transnational network. It involves determining the scope of the network, identifying thematic priorities, and designing guidelines and procedures for participation and engagement.

Finalization of the Framework Development for Sustainable Transnational Network Structures

The activity of finalizing the framework development involves consolidating all the inputs, feedback, and recommendations gathered throughout the previous activities. It aims to refine and finalize the sustainable transnational network framework for the blue economy sector in the Black Sea Basin. This activity focuses on reviewing and incorporating the insights gained from stakeholders, ensuring coherence with regional strategies, and preparing the framework for implementation.

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Platform Architecture, Design and Requirements Gathering

The activity of platform architecture, design, and requirements gathering involves the initial stages of developing the platform for the sustainable transnational network in the blue economy sector. This activity focuses on understanding the needs and expectations of the stakeholders, defining the key functionalities and technical specifications, and designing the platform's architecture and user interface.

Designing Collaborative Tools and Communication Features

The activity of collaborative tools and communication features focuses on integrating functionalities into the sustainable transnational network platform that enhance communication, collaboration, and knowledge exchange among the users. This activity aims to create an interactive and dynamic environment that promotes real-time collaboration, information sharing, and engagement among stakeholders.

Development of the Platforms' Knowledge and Capacity Building Repository

The activity of knowledge repository and resource management focuses on developing a comprehensive repository within the sustainable transnational network platform. The repository serves as a central hub where users can access, contribute, and manage a wide range of resources related to the blue economy sector. The goal is to create an organized and easily accessible knowledge base that supports information sharing, research outcomes, best practices, and guidelines.

Designing executive Training Materials

The activity of training and support focuses on providing comprehensive training, technical assistance, and ongoing support to platform users within the sustainable transnational network. The goal is to ensure that users have the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively utilize the platform's features and functionalities. Additionally, this activity aims to provide prompt assistance and address any user queries or issues to enhance user engagement and satisfaction.

Platform Deployment and Launch

The activity of platform deployment and launch focuses on preparing the sustainable transnational network platform for deployment, conducting comprehensive testing, and executing a well planned launch strategy. The goal is to ensure that the platform is hosted on a reliable infrastructure, performs optimally, and gains maximum user adoption and engagement through effective promotional activities and communication campaigns.

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Capacity Building Program and Training Platform' Initiatives

The Activity on "Capacity Building Programs and Training Initiatives" is a vital component of the sustainable transnational network's efforts to enhance research, innovation, and knowledge exchange within the blue economy sector. This activity focuses on identifying the training needs of stakeholders, developing tailored programs, delivering effective training sessions, providing mentoring support, and evaluating the outcomes.

Collaborative Pilot Testing and Iterative Feedback for Platform Development

By organizing a well-planned and executed pilot testing phase, the project team can gather valuable feedback from users, validate the platform's functionality, and ensure that it meets the needs and expectations of the target user groups in the blue economy sector. This iterative process enables continuous improvement and refinement of the platform, ultimately leading to a more effective and user-friendly solution.

Policy Analysis and Reform Recommendations

The Policy Analysis and Reform Recommendations phase focuses on conducting a comprehensive analysis of existing policies and regulations related to the blue economy sector in the Black Sea Basin Region. It aims to identify gaps, challenges, and opportunities in the policy landscape and provide recommendations for policy reforms that support sustainable transnational network structures and the adoption of innovative technological developments.

Structuring the Capitalization and Sustainable Scaling-Up Strategy

It involves monitoring and evaluating the project's progress, assessing its impact, developing a capitalization plan, and formulating a sustainability strategy for the sustainable transnational network structures and platforms.

Blue Business Development and Partnership Engagement Action Planning

Within the Capitalization and Sustainable Scaling-Up Strategy, the sub-activity of Business Development and Partnership Engagement aims to foster collaboration and partnership with blue economy enterprises. It focuses on attracting and engaging business

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