



ATLANTIC AREA Transnational Programme
ESPACIO ATLÁNTICO Programa Transnacional
ESPACE ATLANTIQUE Programme Transnational
ESPAÇO ATLÂNTICO Programa Transnacional



INNOVATION NETWORKS
REDES DE INNOVACIÓN
RÉSEAUX D'INNOVATION
REDES DE INOVAÇÃO



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



KIMERAAA

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER TO IMPROVE MARINE ECONOMY
IN REGIONS FROM THE ATLANTIC AREA

The image shows three round-bottom flasks containing green algae cultures, arranged on a laboratory bench. The flasks are connected to a network of clear plastic tubing with various valves and clamps. The background is a white tiled wall with a grid pattern. The lighting is bright, creating a clean and professional atmosphere. The text 'KIMERRAA' is overlaid on the left side of the image, and a subtitle is overlaid on a teal banner across the middle.

KIMERRAA

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER TO IMPROVE MARINE ECONOMY
IN REGIONS FROM THE ATLANTIC AREA

THE PROJECT

Entitled KIMERAA - Knowledge transfer to Improve Marine Economy in Regions from the Atlantic Area, this project aims to develop niches of economic excellence in the marine sector through the creation of bridges and links between specialist knowledge providers and firms engaged in maritime activity. To achieve this aim, it will be necessary to identify and develop channels for efficient knowledge transfer in the Atlantic Area regions, mobilising and linking the different institutional actors that can support innovative firms in the Marine Economy.

The main objective of the KIMERAA project is to build strong linkages between firms and scientific communities, focusing on marine sciences and related activities and contributing to the progress of Atlantic Area regional economies. Focussing on Innovation, this objective is strongly aligned with the objectives of European territorial cooperation programmes. This includes creating and consolidating scientific and technological networks that contribute to the enhancement of innovation capabilities in firms in economic sectors connected to, and dependent on, marine resources to contribute to the cohesive, sustainable and balanced territorial development of the relevant regions, as set down in all 2007-2013 programme goals.

The acronym of the project - KIMERAA also refers to a mythological being, built from scattered parts, resulting in the creation of a great power – Chimera, which appropriately symbolises the project aim.

ACTIVITIES

1 IDENTIFICATION OF MARITIME CLUSTERS: INNOVATION ACTORS AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE ATLANTIC AREA

This activity will include the identification and analysis of actors and institutions that constitute innovation systems in Maritime Clusters and Marine Sciences in participating regions.

2 DEVELOPMENT OF A CATALOGUE OF COMPETENCIES AND SERVICES AMONGST MARITIME SCIENCES/CLUSTERS IN THE ATLANTIC AREA

The objective is to create a common catalogue of `Competencies and Services` to facilitate the development of specific niches of excellence in the Marine Sector. The specific goal is to create an information web tool that can stimulate the efficient matching of demand and supply of innovation and knowledge-based services in the marine sector.

3 CREATION OF THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER IN ATLANTIC AREA (ENKTAA)

The main objective of this activity is to create linkages across the European Atlantic Space in the Marine Sector and facilitate the sharing and transfer of quality knowledge in marine science, stimulating co-operation and strengthening the contribution of maritime clusters and science to the economic, environmental and social development of the European Atlantic Area.

PROJECT TARGETS

The project aims to create linkages between the various entities involved in the development of the marine sector/maritime clusters, including R&D centres, entrepreneurs, SMEs and various interface agencies and intermediaries in order to:

i) consolidate a network of partners that is involved in knowledge transfer activities and in the creation of niches of excellence in maritime clusters and marine sciences, and

ii) support the development of spin-offs and licensing opportunities in the Atlantic Area amongst members/partners.

EXPECTED RESULTS

1 INCREASE KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF INNOVATION SYSTEMS IN MARITIME CLUSTERS AND MARINE SCIENCES IN THE ATLANTIC AREA AND ENHANCE LIAISON BETWEEN RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS

DELIVERABLES:

- Report: “Maritime Clusters: Innovation Actors and Institutions in the Atlantic Area”
- Report: “European Initiatives aimed at achieving Excellence in Maritime Clusters”

2 CREATE A COMMON CATALOGUE OF ‘COMPETENCIES AND SERVICES’ TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIFIC NICHES OF EXCELLENCE IN THE MARINE SECTOR BY STIMULATING THE EFFICIENT MATCHING OF DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF INNOVATION

DELIVERABLES:

- Web tool to profile knowledge providers and improve innovation matching amongst actors in Maritime clusters and marine sciences
- Thematic workshops on identified topics
- International information seminar

3 DEVELOP THE NETWORK RELATIONSHIPS AMONG PROJECT PARTNERS AND ATTRACT NEW PARTICIPANT ORGANISATIONS THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK (ENKTAA)

DELIVERABLES:

- Up to 250 additional organisations to participate in ENKTAA, including 20 additional universities and research centres and 20 additional firms.
- Establishment of ENKTAA through a formalised Partner Agreement (Protocol).
- 10 short-term knowledge transfer ‘internships’ amongst project partners
- Creation of KIMERAA S2B(science to business) units to support projects in maritime niches of excellence

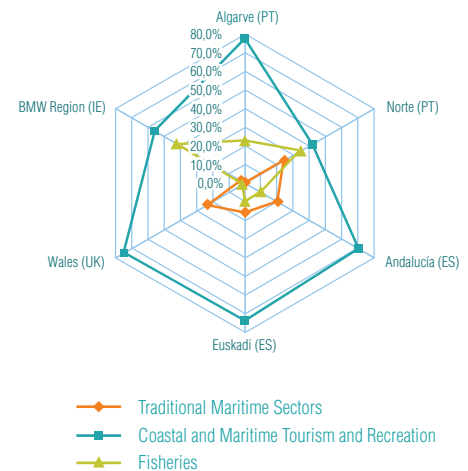
THE IMPORTANCE OF MARITIME CLUSTERS

The sea is a shared strategic resource of the Atlantic Area and its coastal territories is viewed as a key factor of competitiveness, with the potential to play a central role in the culture, economy, identity and history of Europe. Over time the sea has played a crucial role in the economy of the Atlantic Area, from fishing to trade. Nowadays the importance of the sea covers multiple sectors gaining significance through an ever increasing set of activities closely related to this resource, including fisheries, aquaculture and research in marine sciences, with emphasis on blue biotech, ICT, environmental management, tourism and leisure, maritime transportation amongst several interlinked sectors.

The European continent is surrounded by four seas: the Mediterranean, the Baltic, the North Sea and Black Sea and two oceans - the Atlantic and the Arctic which generate significant economic output and provide further development potential:

- According to European Commission data, nearly half the population of EU member states live within 50km of the coast, whilst maritime regions account for 40% of GDP in Europe.
- The leisure activities related to the Sea operate as part of a substantial industry where 63% of European tourists prefer destinations linked to the Sea. Additionally, it is also estimated that there are approximately 10 million fishermen.
- It is estimated that 3-5% of Europe's GDP is related to industries and services regarding marine resources. This excludes the production of raw materials such as fish, oil and gas.
- Most of the EU's external trade is carried by sea. Europe represents 40% of the world's shipping fleet. Annually, 3.5 billion tons of cargo and 350 million passengers pass through 1,200 European seaports.
- Aquaculture is an expanding sector which represents 19% of EU fishery production. By 2030, it is expected that this activity will be capable of providing half of the fish consumed worldwide.

**EMPLOYMENT IN SEA-RELATED SECTORS
IN KIMERAA REGIONS
(% FROM TOTAL EMPLOYED IN
RESPECTIVE SECTORS)**



Source: Own Elaboration based in Data from Policy Research (2008)

With these facts it is clear that the marine economy has extensive potential in the Atlantic Area. However, there still exists considerable gaps between research communities and firms in the areas linked with the Sea, whilst the opportunities for commercialisation of research are not fully exploited. Knowledge is not being effectively transferred to the more traditional sectors (fishing, aquaculture, transportation and tourism...) in order to increase the competitiveness of these enterprises and create and develop economic niches of excellence.

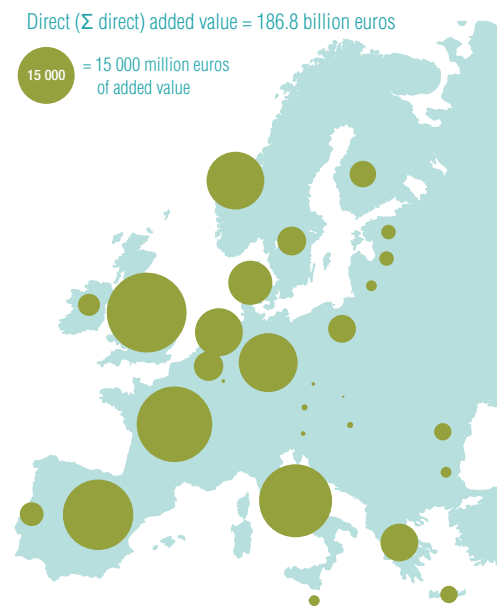
The KIMERAA project seeks to contribute to balanced regional development across the Atlantic Area by promoting high added-value activities that use endogenous resources and research capabilities linked to maritime activities in an efficient and effective manner. The development of a robust approach that can provide benefits from the research that is carried out in these Atlantic Area regions, whilst minimising the barriers to the development of niches of excellence, is crucial to the success of the cohesion policy and the reduction of regional disparities.

EUROPEAN OVERVIEW OF ADDED VALUE AND EMPLOYMENT IN MARINE CLUSTERS



PERCENTAGE MARITIME EMPLOYMENT IN NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Europe: 2.25%	NO: 6.85%	LV: 5.36%	BG: 3.46%
MT: 13.51%	EE: 6.54%	DK: 5.26%	PT: 3.34%
CY: 12.02%	GR: 6.39%	ES: 4.62%	



PERCENTAGE MARITIME ADDED VALUE NATIONAL GDP

Europe: 1.65%	EE: 8.83%	DK: 4.19%	ES: 2.53%
MT: 11.36%	LV: 7.71%	GR: 3.24%	NL: 2.25%
CY: 9.07%	NO: 6.23%	LT: 2.59%	

Source: Policy Research Corporation (2008) The role of maritime clusters to enhance the strength and development of maritime sectors, study prepared for European Commission, available online http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/clusters_en.html.

UNIVERSITY OF ALGARVE CRIA - ALGARVE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR INNOVATION

(PORTUGAL) – LEAD PARTNER

The University of Algarve (UAIG) is a young (thirty years old) higher education public institution located in the southern region of Portugal. UAIG has around 750 permanent teaching, 450 research staff, evidencing a growing commitment towards R&D and Innovation and, around ten thousand students were engaged in academic activities, which nearly two thousand were enrolled in postgraduate programs.

The main research and teaching areas are Earth and Marine Sciences, Health, Management and Tourism, Engineering and Technology and, Social Sciences and Humanities.

CRIA was created in 2003 with a partnership between UAIG, CCDR Algarve (Regional Authority for Planning and Coordination), ANJE Algarve and NERA (enterprises) to create a operational organization to solve identified problems in the region: distance between research and firms and adverse institutional environment to innovation. Resulting from an internal reorganization, CRIA was formally established as a functional division of the University of Algarve (Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer Division), part of the Scientific Research and Advanced Studies Support Unit in the University of the Algarve in 2010.



www.uaig.pt



www.cria.pt

UNIVERSITY OF PORTO UPIN - UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO INOVAÇÃO

(PORTUGAL)

With origins dating back to the eighteenth century, the University of Porto is currently [2010] the largest education and research institution in Portugal. Close to 31000 students (6500 postgraduates), 2300 teachers and researchers along with 1700 administrative staff attend its 15 schools and 69 scientific research units, spread across 3 university campuses located in the city of Porto.

In the last years, the University has been focusing in providing greater economic value to its scientific production. UPIN - University of Porto Innovation is the technology transfer office of the University of Porto. Founded in 2004, UPIN is under the supervision of the Rectorate of the University of Porto and is structured in three functional areas to support the innovation chain in the U. Porto: Funding for R&D, Technology transfer and Entrepreneurship and, Interface Industry-University.

U. PORTO

www.up.pt

UPIN
UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO INOVAÇÃO

<http://upin.up.pt>

MIK, S. COOP. **MONDRAGON INNOVATION & KNOWLEDGE** (SPAIN)



www.mik.es

MIK is the management research centre of MONDRAGON Group, (www.mondragon-corporation.com), the leading Industrial Group in the Basque Country, 7th in Spain and the biggest industrial cooperative experience in the world. It consists of more than 260 enterprises employing 100.000 workers, combining the use of democratic methods in its organisation with special emphasis on job creation, the promotion of its workers in human and professional terms and a commitment to the development of its social environment.

MIK intends to contribute to the competitiveness of firms and society by developing research and test projects about advanced management theories, techniques and new organisational forms based on knowledge and innovation. MIK has also expertise in carrying out knowledge exchange and transfer research projects in different sectors: petrol fuel-oil, financial, educative and in the marine sector in the basque coastline.

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY **CASS - CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES** (UNITED KINGDOM)



www.cardiff.ac.uk



www.cardiff.ac.uk/cass

The Centre for Advanced Studies is a research institution of Cardiff University. Cardiff University was founded in 1883. The Centre was founded in 1993. It conducts research of an advanced nature in such fields as environmental analysis, bioscience and health studies, urban and regional governance, economic development, cultural industries and services, innovation systems, training and labour markets, business and policy networks and industry clusters. It also constructs industry, health and environmental databases, retailing these to private and public clients. These include UNIDO, OECD, EU, UK and other national and regional governments, British Telecom, Agenda Media, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, and the research councils. Recent innovation system contracts have been won with the Swedish, Portuguese and Turkish governments. The Centre has recently been selected by the UK Economic & Social Research Council as lead partner in the UK's first social scientific Genomics Research Centre (CESAGen). The Centre is represented on three EU expert committees, the Director, Professor Phil Cooke was appointed President of the Expert Committee on 'Constructed Advantage' in 2005. Current research focuses on bioincubation, scientific careers, biotechnology and software clusters, multimedia technologies, and new economic development funding models. The Centre employs eleven personnel.

IONAD FORBARTHA GNO T/A WESTBIC

(IRELAND)

WESTBIC is the official EU Business & Innovation Centre in the Border, Midland & Western Region of Ireland and has extensive experience in providing business advice and support to innovative enterprise in the region, delivered through its network of offices, set up in co-operation with strategic partners. WESTBIC provides a focused range of services including tailored support packages for early-stage innovative enterprise and the delivery of additional services aimed at improving the competitiveness and levels of innovation in companies, often undertaken through SME networks and cluster approaches.

In particular, WESTBIC's offices and service points located in the coastal counties of Galway, Mayo, Donegal and Sligo are ideally suited to support the marine sector. WESTBIC's networks and linkages with other intermediaries in this sector provide an opportunity to add value through a co-operative and integrated approach amongst key players.



www.westbic.ie

UNIVERSITY OF HUELVA OTRI - RESEARCH RESULTS TRANSFER OFFICES

(SPAIN)

University of Huelva (UHU) is a young dynamic institution, established in 1993. Since the UHU gained its independence from Seville University it has continued growing and it now has a brand new campus with modern facilities and installations. Its main activities are teaching, research and transfer, striving for excellence and a brilliant future for its students and researchers.

The Office of Research Results Transfer (OTRI) of the University of Huelva is the agency responsible for promoting and managing the relationships between the university, public research organizations and sectors of the business environment within the field of research and technology.

OTRI provides support services and technical assistance to research groups and businesses, promoting, collaborating and participating in the management of international funded projects (VII FP, INTERREG, etc), patents and intellectual property, technology-based firms, contracts with firms, etc.



www.uhu.es

otri

www.uhu.es/otri





CONTACTS

KIMERAA

Knowledge transfer to Improve Marine Economy in Regions from the Atlantic Area

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