



12 Open Innovation Challenges looking for a solution

- *The BLUE DEAL project together with companies and entities has launched 12 challenges whose objective is to promote the use of marine renewable energies in the Mediterranean.*

The **BLUE DEAL project** launches an Open Innovation action to **promote the efficient matching of demand and supply of innovation** and knowledge-based services in the Blue Energy sector.

Blue Deal **Open Innovation Challenges** offers the opportunity for bright-minded companies, start-ups, SMEs, or research centers, to propose the best-in-class products and solutions within the Blue Energy sector.

The challengers will share their concerns and problems and the solvers called will propose the solutions.

Together with 11 companies and entities, the European project has launched **12 challenges** through its **platform** where more detailed information about the challenger presenting the problem, a short video and details about the challenge can be found.

To participate by presenting a solution, it is only necessary to enter the web **bluedealmed.eu/colab/challenges**, select the challenge and complete a small form.

From all the solutions presented, a **winner** will be selected from each challenge who **will be able to present his/her solution** during the **second Business Forum** of the project that will take place in Valencia in February 2022 where an absolute winner will be chosen.

Participating in this Open Innovation action will allow startups making concrete progress in technological challenges; experience a structured line of work in Open Innovation with the help of institutional facilitators; link to a strategic and pioneering program; positioning in the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem; receive visibility and media recognition and hundreds of impacts on national and regional communication advantages.

The 12 challenges presented are:

Sustainable micro-mobility powered by wave energy (*Comune di San Felice Circeo*)

The challenge envisages the installation of parking/recharging stations nearby the touristic port and the waterfront lane powered by technologies that exploit the marine electric potential, in a particular wave motion. The devices for the production of energy from the sea should preferably be placed along with the existing infrastructures.

Integration of Marine Renewable Energy Source(s) at Fish Feeding Platforms (*Levantina Fish Ltd.*)

Looking for entities to collaborate with in order to integrate marine renewable energy sources into 2 feeding platforms, which will provide low-carbon power for their daily needs. Any proposed



technology must have the least possible impact on the marine environment, due to the proximity to the fish farms, which boast top-quality fish with high nutritional value.

Energy autonomy in the port of the city of Samos *(Municipality of Eastern Samos)*

In the context of the broader goal of energy independence of Samos Island In 2050, the Municipality seeks original ideas and proposals that will be characterized by sustainability, innovation, as well as the prospect of creating new jobs; enabling the achievement of energy autonomy in the port of the city of Samos, utilizing Blue Energy technologies with respect to the natural landscape.

Solutions for landscape integration of Blue Energy devices at Giglio Island *(Municipality of Giglio Island)*

The objective is to ensure a limited visual impact of BE technologies, through their implementation in pre-existing structures or underwater solutions. In this way, it will be possible to reduce the visual impact of the devices and point out potential attractive and innovative views. Lights, colors, and innovative designs could be an enhancement tool for the integration of these technologies.

Modelling Blue energy-based local governance *(Andalusian Federation of Municipalities and Provinces- FAMP)*

This challenge looks for obtaining the optimal governance model for the use of marine energy in the municipalities of the Andalusian coast by identifying the typology of actors that should be involved in this mode. It should be identified what interrelationships should exist between them to ensure that the joint efforts incentivize marine energy production.

Wave energy for a tourist harbour *(Marina di Pescara)*

Marina di Pescara wants to test systems to generate electricity from waves and wants to select the best technologies. It is looking for companies and experts able to provide technical solutions, technologies, mechanical components, turbines, and generators to convert waves into energy to supply the demand of the Marina. In this way, it will try to accomplish an energy transition to renewables.

Utilization of seawater heat pump in the main building of the port of Saranda *(Port of Saranda)*

The project proposes an installation in the Port building of Saranda. In particular, the installation of a geothermal heat pump with the aim of covering thermal and cooling needs in the indoor pre-heater of the building port of Saranda. The proposed heat pump will operate with seawater not directly from the sea but through drilling in proximity to it.

Challenges in workforce re-qualification and training for novel jobs in maritime sector *(Split-Dalmatia county)*

This challenge intends to establish guidelines that will ensure the knowledge transfer suitable for re-qualification of the working force to the novel, innovative technologies, and industrial niches. The intention is to present comprehensive guidelines or reports that will show how the transition can be made considering local requirements.

Conversion of washed-up seaweed into biofuel *(Municipality of Larnaca)*



Wanting to contribute to the effort to tackle the climate crisis and promote the use of renewable energy sources, the Municipality of Larnaca is looking for innovative proposals to turn Larnaca algae from a problem into an opportunity. The goal is the sustainable use of algae to bring mutual benefits to the citizens and the environment.

Monitoring underwater activities close to blue-energy devices (*Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving – CRES*)

Propose innovative system(s) to allow for long-term monitoring of underwater activities close to blue-energy devices. The systems could include optical, acoustic, chemical, or physical monitoring devices or any other devices. The system(s) should be compact and easy to transport and deploy on blue energy devices, weatherproof and capable for long-term, operation in the marine environment.

Integration of renewable energies in the Port of Valencia (*TYPSA Group*)

The challenge owner has been pioneered in the design of renewable energy plants within the ports, and they are looking for new technologies that permit to harness the wider and vast renewable resources of the port of Valencia (waves, wind, or solar).

How to reduce the marine visual impact of wind energy generation (*Andalusian Renewable Energy Association-CLANER*)

The challenger seeks solutions for the use of turbine points and buoys that delimit the location in such a way that visibility is increased, and all legislative requirements are met but with less visual impact to have a better acceptance among the population.

Find more information about the challenges here: <https://bluedealmed.eu/colab/challenges>

BLUE DEAL is a European project made up of 12 partners from 6 Mediterranean countries and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and the Instrument for the Pre-accession Assistance Fund, with a budget of 2.8 million euros.

More information:

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