

The first NEPTUNE Newsletter is now available



# Neptune

Blue Growth Accelerator

## **A Blue Growth Accelerator to support Small and Medium Enterprises, Entrepreneurs and Would-be-Entrepreneurs**

NEPTUNE supports the development of new cross-sectoral and cross-border industrial value-chains mixing Water, Aerospace, ICT and Agriculture technologies, through a direct support scheme to SMEs.

NEPTUNE is an innovation action project supported by the European Commission and its HORIZON 2020 programme under the call for proposal INNOSUP-1-2015 Cluster facilitated projects for new value chains. It stands for New Cross Sectoral Value Chains Creation across Europe Facilitated By Clusters for SMEs' Innovation in Blue Growth.

The project brings together the expertise of 8 clusters, 2 cluster and entrepreneurship support organisations, 1 engineer school and 1 consultant company from 7 European countries: France, Greece, Italy, Poland, Romania, Spain and Sweden. The accelerator runs for 30 months until December 2018. It focuses on three main topics:

### **Water management in urban and rural environments**

Smart city and smart grids adapted to drinking water and wastewater infrastructures, rational irrigation and sustainable agriculture



## Fluvial and maritime transport and port logistics

Port logistics, water transport (ocean and in-land) and related civil engineering and infrastructures.



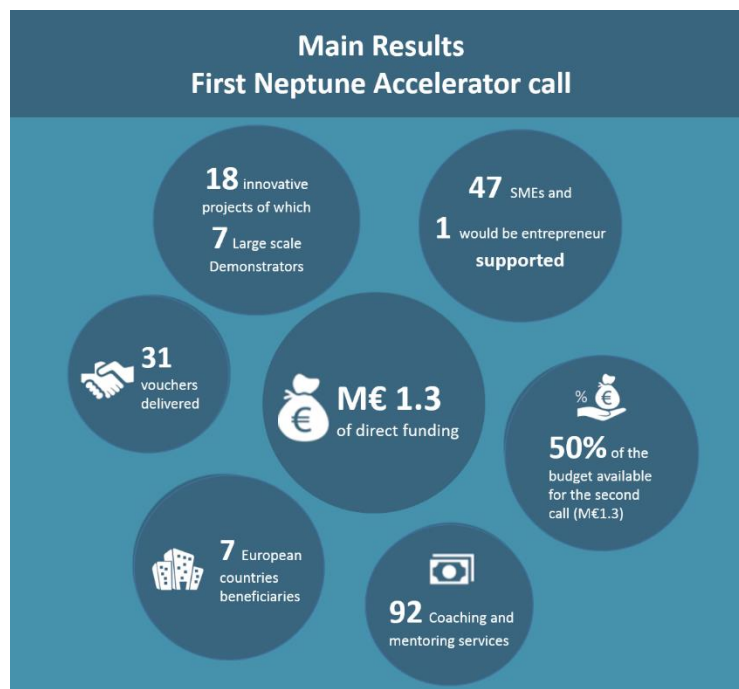
## Environment and renewable marine energy

Water quality, biodiversity, sustainable exploitation of biological resources on one side and renewable marine energy on the other side such as hydropower, tidal power, floating wind farms, Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion.



## Projects supported by the Blue Growth Accelerator

**A great success for the first call to support Blue Growth innovative projects with 86 proposals submitted.**



## Examples of supported innovative projects



### Wave Model Confidence Index

The project is implemented thanks to a partnership between two French SMEs: Noveltis, from Occitanie Region, specialized in Earth Observation and Compagnie Maritime Chambon, from Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur Region specialized in port towage, sea rescue, offshore oil exploitation and Marine Renewable Energy. The project aims to develop a demonstrator of a system able to gather all measurements data made in the sea, by sensors or altimetry satellites as well as the sea state models forecasts. It will allow maritime users to be informed about wave heights and sea conditions in order to take the best decision regarding their itinerary.



### **Integrated environmental monitoring**

There is a common European need to assess and monitor the present quality status of water bodies. The aim with the project is to develop a novel prototype for decision support to environmental monitoring with remotely sensed data, data acquisition and processing systems to assess conditions and forecast trends. The project was applied by two Swedish SMEs; Vultus and 4ITAB. Vultus works with computer vision and spectral analysis in agriculture. The core competencies within Vultus are mathematical modelling, computer vision, machine learning and extensive drone knowledge. 4IT create decision support systems for transport and energy agencies. They have extensive knowledge about decision support systems, complex database structures, web-development and data visualization.



### World BioCoast

This 15-month project is implemented by a Franco-Greek consortium gathering the French SME I-Sea, located in Nouvelle-Aquitaine and specialized in earth observation and *in situ* monitoring with a range of products for the water and coastal environments. While the Greek SME, TerraSpatium is from Attica and has more than 25 years of focused experience and wide range of capabilities in the fields of Geo-information. The World-Biocoast project aims at the improvement of satellite data processing chains for the monitoring of natural coastal areas. It ambitions to elaborate habitat maps addressing regulatory typologies (Natura 2000) in order to help managers to draft and evaluate the impact of their own management plans. World-BioCoast will therefore be a major tool contributing to the preservation of some of the richest and most fragile environments in the world.



### Increasing the efficiency of nutrients removal in small community wastewaters

The aim of the project is to join the efforts of two European SMEs, EcoSistemi (Italy) and Ecotrust (Romania), for demonstrating in a real environment the efficiency of the integration of two waste water treatment technologies: a traditional primary treatment (three chamber Imhoff tank) and an innovative secondary biological treatment (RCBR biofilm reactor). This new application layout will increase water treatment quality standards, providing high efficiency in a compact design, high reduction of plant complexity, high reduction of ecological footprint.

## News & Opportunities

### Stay tuned to NEPTUNE Accelerator with the second and final cut-off date of the call for project

The call documents detailing the eligibility and admissibility criteria, the topics and challenges looking for solutions, the vouchers (up to €60,000) and services offered, the application and evaluation process, as well as the electronic submission service are available soon on NEPTUNE website.

**The next and final cut-off date with deadline on 15 September 2017 @17:00 CET.**

### Apply to get tailor-made services

The access to coaching and mentoring services remains open. SMEs and would-be entrepreneurs can benefit for 7 types of coaching and mentoring services performed by European clusters involved in NEPTUNE project:

- **INCUBATION** - Assessing opportunities for incubation and redirection to right incubation programme
  - **BUSINESS MODEL** - Assessing business model and business plan and recommendation for improvement
  - **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES** - Identifying funding opportunities and complementarities that could leverage driven projects, and support to access funding
  - **TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT** - Assessing potential of technology or know-how in relation with emerging industries targeted
  - **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS SUPPORT** - Protect foreground and results in collaborative projects with support to negotiate a consortium agreement and protect results
  - **INTERNATIONALISATION** - Assessing opportunities for internationalisation and recommendations
  - **BRANDING** - Advising on marketing strategy
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