



EUROPEAN INITIATIVES TO EXCELLENCE IN MARITIME CLUSTER

March 2011



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INNOVATION NETWORKS
REDES DE INNOVACION
RÉSEAUX D'INNOVATION
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CONTENTS

CONTEXT	5
1. RESEARCH PROJECTS	6
1.1. AGUA FLASH.....	6
1.2. ATLANTOX: Advanced Tests about New Toxins Appeared in Atlantic Area.....	6
1.3. BIOMARA: Sustainable Fuels from Marine Biomass	7
1.4. BIOTECMAR: BIOTEchnological Exploitation of MARine Products and by-Products	7
1.5. EC CSTP: Celtic Sea Trout Project.....	8
1.6. ECOFISH: Environmentally Friendly Fish Farming and Use of Cleaner Fish.....	8
1.7. ECOJEL: Managing the Opportunities and Detrimental Impacts of Jellyfish in the IrishSea	9
1.8. MISE: Mammals in a Sustainable Environment	9
1.9. SHIPWELD: Automatic Welding Process for the Shipbuilding Industry.....	10
1.10. TEMEC: Technical Efficiency in EU Fisheries: Implications for monitoring and management through effort control.....	10
2. KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PROJECTS	11
2.1. AARC: Atlantic Aquatic Resource Conservation Project.....	11
2.2. ANCORIM: Atlantic Network for Coastal Risk Prevention and Management.....	11
2.3. ATLANT-KIS: Platform of Knowledge Intensive Services for Innovation and Technology and Knowledge Transfer	12
2.4. ATMOS: Atlantic Area Motorway of the Sea	12
2.5. AUXNAVALIA: Mejora de la Capacidad de Innovación y la Competitividad de la Industria Auxiliar del Sector Naval.....	13
2.6. CINCO: Centres of Innovation and Competitiveness	13
2.7. COASTADAPT: Adaptation to Climate Change in Coastal	14
2.8. COREPOINT: COastal REsearch and POLicy INTegration.....	14
2.9. DEPURANAT: Treatment of Water Residues for Productive Purposes in the Rural and Natural Environment of the Atlantic Area thanks to Natural Systems of Treatment with Low Energy Costs.....	15
2.10. EASYCO: Collaborative Atlantic Space Biogeochemical Forecasting System.....	15
2.11. EROCIPS: The Emergency Response to Coastal Oil, Chemical and Inert Pollution from Shipping	16
2.12. ECOAQUA: Establishment of a network of cross-border cooperation for the utilization of ecologically sustainable production systems in aquaculture	16
2.13. FAME: The Future of the Atlantic Marine Environment.....	17

2.14. GASD: Green Atlantic for Sustainable Development	17
2.15. IMCORE: Innovative Management for Europe's Changing Coastal Resource	18
2.16. MAREN: Marine Renewable Energy, Energy Extraction and Hydro-Environmental Aspects	18
2.17. MBEO: Marine Based Employment Opportunities	19
2.18. MESH: Mapping European Seabed Habitats for Better Marine Management	19
2.19. MICORE: Morphological Impacts and Coastal Risks Induced by Extreme Storm Events	19
2.20. NEA: Development of the water sports sector in the Atlantic Area	20
2.21. NEA2: NAUTISME ESPACE ATLANTIQUE 2	20
2.22. PORTONOVO	20
2.23. PRESPO: Desarrollo Sostenible de las Pesquerías Artesanales del Arco Atlántico	21
2.24. PROPOSSE: Promotion of Short Sea Shipping and Co-Operation with SMEs	21
2.25. PROTEUS: Conversion of Natural Resources and Marine Waste into Products of High-Added Value for Industrial Applications..	22
2.26. QPEIXE: Searching for the Portuguese Marine Fauna	22
2.27. RAIA: Iberian Margin Ocean Observatory	22
2.28. REINFORCE: REsource INFrastructures for monitoring, adapting and protecting european atlantic FORests under Changing climatE.....	23
2.29. SAIL WEST: Sail West Leisure Project	23
2.30. SCSC: Smart Coasts= Sustainable Communities.....	24
2.31. SEACASE: Sustainable Extensive And Semi-Intensive Coastal Aquaculture In Southern Europe	24
2.32. ShareBiotech: Sharing Life Science Infrastructures and Skills to Benefit the Atlantic Area Biotechnology Sector	25
2.33. SEAFARE: Sustainable and Environmentally Friendly Aquaculture for the Atlantic	25
2.34. SPAA: Sustainable Promotion of Atlantic Areas	26
2.35. SSSAA: Promotion of Cabotage ("Short Sea Shipping") in the Atlantic Area	26
2.36. AQUAGENET: Red Transnacional de Biotecnología en Acuicultura	27
2.37. SUSFISH: Shellfish productivity in the Irish Sea: Working towards a sustainable future.....	27
2.38. SUSTAIN: Assessing Sustainability and Strengthening Operational Policy	27
2.39. UAN: Underwater Acoustic Network.....	28
2.40. WATER: Warning of Algal Toxin Events to Support Aquaculture in the NPP	28
3. NETWORKING PROJECTS.....	29
3.1. AAPUBLICSERV: Building Sustainable Public Services in the Atlantic Arc	29
3.2. ARCOPOL: Atlantic Regions' Coastal Pollution, Response and Preparedness	29
3.3. CELTIC WAVE: One Sea, Six Ports, Endless Promise	30
3.4. CRUISE ATLANTIC EUROPE	30
3.5. FAROS: Integral Networking of Fishing Sector Actors to Organize a Responsible, Optimal and Sustainable Exploitation of Marine Resources	31
3.6. MARINE: MARitime Incident Research and Innovation Network	31
3.7. MOFISH: Multiple Objectives in the Management of EU Fisheries	32
3.8. NETAlgae: Inter-regional Network to promote sustainable development in the marine Algal.....	32
3.9. RISING TIDE: Connecting Celtic Communities.....	33
3.10. WINATLANTIC: Western Internationalisation Network Atlantic	33

CONTEXT

The KIMERAA project (Knowledge transfer to Improve Marine Economy in Regions from the Atlantic Area) has as main objective the development economic niches of excellence through the creation of bridges and links between scientific knowledge and firms in the marine sector. To achieve this goal it is important to establish and develop knowledge transfer channels connecting the various institutional actors/knowledge providers that can support the Marine Economy across the Atlantic Area. In so doing, the project aims to transform European research into profitable high value-added products and services. By taking this approach, the project will provide a greater awareness and knowledge of Maritime Clusters, innovation actors and institutions in the Atlantic Area. It is anticipated that these clusters will be profiled; a competencies and services catalogue will be developed for each participating region to create a transnational web tool to match research capabilities, knowledge and technology to market demands. Finally, a European Network of Knowledge Transfer across the Atlantic Area will be promoted to give sustainability to the results; including promotion and facilitation of spin-outs, licensing of activities and sponsored/collaborative projects.

The partnership of this project is formed by:

- CRIA - Algarve Regional Centre for Innovation, Division of Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer, University of Algarve (lead partner - Portugal),
- UPIN - University of Porto Innovation, University of Porto (Portugal),
- CASS - Centre for Advanced Studies, Cardiff University (United Kingdom),
- MIK - Mondragon Innovation & Knowledge (Spain),
- OTRI - Office of Research Results Transfer, University of Huelva (Spain), and
- WESTBIC - Business & Innovation Centre in Border, Midland & Western Region of Ireland (Ireland).

This document is inserted in Activity 2 (Maritime Clusters: Innovation Actors and Institutions in Atlantic Area). It aims to list maritime economy-related projects that are running in the KIMERAA partner countries. These projects were mentioned as interesting initiatives by the partners and are presented in alphabetical order and categorised as:

1. Research - projects that are linked with the knowledge production, fundamental or applied, in the Maritime sector.

2. Knowledge Exchange - projects that are linked with science communication and knowledge transfer.

3. Networking - projects that are focused on benchmarking and best-practice through partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

1. RESEARCH PROJECTS

1.1. AGUA FLASH

Best Practice Example Listed by: MIK

The Agua Flash is a SUDOE (South West European) project financed by ERDF funds. This project aims to develop a method to determine the risks of deterioration of waters quality in agricultural catchments during floods events, transposable to the SUDOE territory. To achieve this goal a prototype will be developed allowing the risks of water quality deterioration during flood periods to be assessed in agricultural catchments in the SUDOE area and appropriate tools will be produced to measure the biological consequences of quick and intensive chemical and physical deterioration in water quality during periods of flooding.

This project brings together six research teams: three French (CNRS - Lead partner), Cemagref and National Polytechnic Institute of Toulouse), two Spanish (University of the Basque Country and Agencia Estatal de Investigación) and one Portuguese (National Institute of Biological Resources).

Agua Flash selected four experimental watersheds to represent the SUDOE areas: Save River (France), Flumen River (Aragon, Spain), Alegria River (Basque Country, Spain) and Enxoé River (Portugal).

More information can be found at: www.aquaflash-sudoe.eu

1.2. ATLANTOX: Advanced Tests about New Toxins Appeared in Atlantic Area

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN & WESTBIC

ATLANTOX main objective is to support and accelerate the development and introduction of a proper and efficient method of fast alternative controlling based on antibodies and functional tests for biotoxins. The main idea of the project is to respond directly to the priorities and objectives of the Atlantic Area Operational Programme. It establishes the need to protect coastal areas and its environmental quality, counteracting those factors that threaten the integrity of this marine environment within the same Operational Programme; in coincidence with the measures of this proposal for developing the following action (collected directly in this project); Design solutions and test methods among transnational partners to avoid coastline changing.

The main activities of ATLANTOX are: to collect and analyse water samples; to develop a quick and reliable method for biotoxins detection; and to validate and exploit the results.

This project includes different bodies from several countries, namely University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain – Lead Partner), Queen’s University Belfast and Agri-Food And Biosciences Institute (United Kingdom), Cork Institute of Technology (Ireland), Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research (Portugal), National Centre of Scientific Research (France) and National Association of Fish and Seafood Cannery Manufacturers (Spain).

More information can be found at: www.atlantox.com

1.3. BIOMARA: Sustainable Fuels from Marine Biomass

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

BioMara will investigate both macroalgae (seaweeds) and single-celled microalgae as potential sources of biofuel. The project includes a techno-economic evaluation of potential systems, environmental impact assessment and an ongoing process of stakeholder engagement to ensure that the ultimate findings of the research have wide applicability.

The initial focus for the strategic collaborative approach will be the creation of new knowledge. The primary purpose of this new knowledge is to raise the efficiency of existing technology and introduce new technologies more productive and competitive with traditional sources of energy. The dissemination of the new knowledge for this purpose will be a priority and eventually training, support and advice will be provided to end users through appropriate networks and industry associations. Innovation and entrepreneurship will be fostered through these networks.

Much of the focus will be on local generation of energy needs in a carbon-neutral and sustainable manner. Traditional infrastructure is geared to fossil fuels and to their importation, distribution and large-scale use or conversion into appropriate forms of energy. The infrastructural needs of new, smaller-scale and more local production of liquid and gas biofuels will need to be rethought and new, more appropriate, cross-border and multi-purpose forms of infrastructure introduced, which are softer and less expensive than traditional energy supply infrastructure such as under-sea cables.

The project will determine which types of organisms are best suited to biofuel production and the best growing conditions by testing for various aspects of suitability by a process of elimination.

More information can be found at: www.biomara.org

1.4. BIOTECMAR: BIOTEchnological Exploitation of MARine Products and by-Products

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN & WESTBIC

Common strategies have to be developed in order to direct marine by-products exploitation towards higher added value products instead of just merely waste. On the Atlantic area, the actors are dispersed, while other regions in the world (Canada, Asia and Norway) are more co-ordinated in their approach.

The BIOTECMAR project supports the development of a chain for the production of valuable ingredients using underexploited marine products. The project is co financed with the support of the European Union – ERDF - in the framework of the Transnational Programme Atlantic Area and it aims at: 1) Analyzing the current blocking points for by-products use and studying the possible exploitation by value chains (by species, and by-product); 2) Establishing an Atlantic network with connections between scientists, marine resources providers, manufacturers and users; 3) Disseminating information among SMEs on the marine resource potential, processing methods, biological activities, traceability, regulation and market trends via the organization of seminars, workshops, training sessions, conferences, individual meetings, etc.; and 4) Supporting the industries/SMEs from Atlantic area to develop these biotechnologies.

More information can be found at: www.biotecmar.eu

1.5. EC CSTP: Celtic Sea Trout Project

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

Sea trout fisheries in parts of Western Britain, including the Irish Sea, are suffering decline; but the pattern is mixed and in most cases the causes of change and thus the solutions are poorly understood. The CSTP intends to provide this missing knowledge and to translate it into fishery and conservation benefits for countries bordering the Irish Sea.

The Celtic Sea Trout aims to understand and describe sea trout stocks in the Irish Sea and thereby to enhance sea trout fisheries and strengthen their contributions to quality of life, to rural economies and to national biodiversity; and to explore the use of sea trout life history variation as a tool to detect and understand the effects of climate change.

This project involves the collection of sea trout samples from 80 rivers (of which 20 have been targeted for detailed sampling), estuaries, coastal waters and further offshore, over three years. The samples will be mostly of fin clips and scales accompanied by accurate size information; but whole fish will also be taken to examine feeding and other aspects of biology. The samples will be processed to describe stock structures and distributions (using micro-chemistry and genetics), life histories, growth and survival (from scale analysis) and feeding. From these data and reviews of the fisheries and freshwater trout production a picture will be assembled of the quality and quantity of sea trout stocks and fisheries around the Irish Sea.

More information can be found at: www.celticseatrout.com

1.6. ECOFISH: Environmentally Friendly Fish Farming and Use of Cleaner Fish

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

The problem of sea lice infestation of farmed salmon has become a major issue not only for the salmon farmers themselves but also for environmentalists, retailers and consumers who are concerned about the effects of the transfer of lice to wild populations of salmon and the effect that treatments to remove the lice may have on the environment and on the quality of the fish produced. Initially lice were treated with organophosphate pesticides and more recently with hydrogen peroxide. The use of both these materials is now banned, leaving only one effective treatment, emamectin benzoate. However, there is now concern that lice are becoming resistant to this last effective treatment, so an alternative method of controlling the parasite is urgently needed. One solution that has been tried in recent years is biological control through the use of wrasse which can clean the lice off salmon, thus avoiding the need for any chemical treatments.

This project seeks to resolve the above issues by developing the technology for spawning and rearing the most promising cleaner fish, ballan wrasse, in captivity. This will allow large numbers of disease free fish to be produced both economically and sustainably. It will also look into the management of wrasse in salmon cages in order to achieve the effective removal of lice whilst at the same time safeguarding the health and welfare of the wrasse themselves.

More information can be found at: www.eco-fish.org

1.7. ECOJEL: Managing the Opportunities and Detrimental Impacts of Jellyfish in the Irish Sea

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

There is concern that the abundance of jellyfish is increasing globally as a result of climate change. The ecosystem impacts of jellyfish (both positive and negative) and consequently their socio-economic importance may, therefore, increase. The aim of the EcoJel project is to identify and manage the jellyfish threats and opportunities which may result from climate change in the Irish Sea.

EcoJel will identify the threats of jellyfish nuisance blooms to bathers, to fisheries and aquaculture and to ecosystem health in the Irish Sea. The project will establish the movements and origin of pest jellyfish through the development of innovative tracking technologies. By determining the diet, abundance and distribution of jellyfish in the Irish Sea, and then compiling this data into an ecosystem model, EcoJel can identify how jellyfish impact on the expanding aquaculture industry, established fisheries, and whether the Irish Sea is likely to experience (if not already) a regime shift i.e. a shift from a fish dominated sea to one that is dominated by jellyfish (such regime shifts have already happened in other parts of the world). Finally, the project will examine emerging markets for jellyfish products (e.g. for human consumption in far eastern markets) which are supporting new jellyfish harvesting industries. In the Irish Sea, the barrel jellyfish seems to fit the requirements for harvesting (large size, suitable colour and texture, non-venomous, very abundant). Also, learning from the experience of other countries, the Irish Sea offers the potential of a recreational hotspot for divers to swim with blooms of giant jellyfish.

More information can be found at: www.jellyfish.ie

1.8. MISE: Mammals in a Sustainable Environment

Best Practice Example Listed by: CASS

The Mammals in a Sustainable Environment (MISE) project will develop non-invasive DNA-based techniques to monitor small and medium sized mammals in west Wales. With the help of volunteers and local people, we will undertake monitoring and conservation activities for species of conservation interest. Analysis of samples collected from field surveys will allow the identification of potential threats to individual species which will be used to advise conservation work to safeguard the future of these mammals.

The molecular group at Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) has developed novel techniques for monitoring mammals from non-invasively collected samples (e.g., faeces and hair). Genetic analysis provides species, gender and individual identification. The MISE project will use this approach to monitor small and medium sized mammals. Sample collection will be largely carried out by volunteers through field surveys. Training will be provided for volunteers through workshops and field training. This will enhance public awareness of the importance of mammals in the environment. Data analysis will also allow the identification of potential threats to individual species (e.g., habitat fragmentation) which will be used to advise on conservation work where appropriate.

The project is a partnership funded until 2013 by the Ireland – Wales Interreg Programme. Project partners include WIT, the Irish National Data Centre, the Vincent Wildlife Trust (VWT), Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and Snowdonia National Park Authority.

More information can be found at: www.vwt.org.uk/mammals

1.9. SHIPWELD: Automatic Welding Process for the Shipbuilding Industry

Best Practice Example Listed by: CASS & MIK

The SHIPWELD project will focus on a metal welding process applied to the ship building industry and it aims to develop a fully automated hull welding system enabling online control and adjustment of the parameters and the welding trajectory to ensure good weld seams. This will help improve the innovation capacities of shipbuilders within the European Atlantic Area and hence boost their competitiveness worldwide. To achieve this aims, the project plans to design a monitoring technique aiming to perform a good quality welding joint on a typical application in the ship building industry with a fully automatic welding system unit. Up until now the different section plates of ships are welded manually which causes inaccuracies due to the poor repeatability of the process. As a consequence of the working environment where the welding process takes place the welding staff risks their lives. The R&D activities focus the attention on monitoring the welding process of hulls. The project will yield new knowledge and understanding about different welding processes and the research activities to be performed will allow the online control and adjustment of the parameters and the welding path to ensure a good welded seam.

The project partners are Fatronik-Tecnalia (Co-ordinator), Spain; Instituto de Soldadura e Qualidade (ISQ), Portugal; IRCCyN, Ecole Centrale Nantes, France; Universidad de Vigo, Spain; STX France SA, France; and MEC, School of Engineering, Cardiff University, UK.

More information can be found at: www.shipweld.org

1.10. TEMEC: Technical Efficiency in EU Fisheries: Implications for monitoring and management through effort control

Best Practice Example Listed by: University of Huelva

The TEMEC project (European Communities Fifth Framework programme “Technical efficiency in EU fisheries: implications for monitoring and management through effort controls”) was a three-year research project with the key aims of estimating the distribution of efficiency in EU fisheries and the implications of this for fisheries management using effort controls. The area of efficiency analysis, while well established in most other industries, is relatively new in the area of fisheries. Many problems not encountered in other industries needed to be incorporated into the analyses, such as variable stocks and multiple outputs. A number of new techniques were developed by the project team to enable these features to be incorporated into the analyses. As a result, the project not only improved the information base for fisheries management, but also advanced the state of the art for the assessment of efficiency in fisheries.

The partners of this project were CEMARE, University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth, United Kingdom (CEFAS - subcontractors to Portsmouth), the Department of Economics and Management, The Norwegian College of Fisheries Science (NCFS), University of Troms, Norway, Modelizacion Economica y Matematica de Pesquerias (MEMPES –Research Group of the University of Huelva, Spain), The National Agricultural Research Foundation (NAGREF) of Greece, Institute of Rural Economics, Karpenisi, Greece, the Department of Environment and Business Economics, University of Southern Denmark (IME-SDU), Esbjerg, Denmark and the Danish Research Institute of Food Economics (FOI), Fisheries Economics and Management Division, Copenhagen, Denmark.

More information can be found at: TEMEC

2. KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PROJECTS

2.1. AARC: Atlantic Aquatic Resource Conservation Project

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN

AARC project focuses on a wide variety of Atlantic's threats, such as exhaustion of halieutic (fishing) resources, loss of biodiversity, pollution, degradation of natural spaces and landscapes, deterioration in water quality and over-fishing pressure from tourism, wastewater and intensive agriculture.

The project will adopt an Ecosystem Approach which encompasses economics, societal choice and ecology to address complex environmental issues which aims to restore, protect and enhance fishery resources sustainably and long into the future by the: use of innovative genetic techniques for defining the species migration paths and annual movements; development of aquaculture processes to support reintroductions and supportive stocking; improvement of natal spawning habitat under pressure from agriculture and climate change; raise of public and political awareness of the need for integrated management of all these issues to deliver joint goals; increase of informed sustainable resource usage and strengthening regional economic performance through liberating endogenous potential; and increased recognition of the need for (IWRM) and the application of the Ecosystem Approach. Successful conservation should be undertaken at scales relevant to the issues (CBD Secretariat).

AARC also aims to integrate the management of migratory fish across political boundaries, coordinating actions with land, river, estuary, coastal and marine management, as well as will address river pollution to protect and enhance the breeding and juvenile habitat of the migratory species concerned.

The project will also link conservation SMEs with high level University researchers and public bodies, facilitating knowledge transfer into rural, lower RDI regions, particularly in the south of the Atlantic Area.

More information can be found at: www.aarcproject.org

2.2. ANCORIM: Atlantic Network for Coastal Risk Prevention and Management

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

This project aims to build the operational capacities of decision-makers from the Atlantic regions in order to manage and prevent coastal risks, and particularly those related to climatic change. Capacity building entails making practical use of the scientific and technical information that is translated, interpreted and made available to coastal managers, to improve the relevance of their decisions relating to (i) coastal management and development (in terms of risk prevention); (ii) the handling of potential crises should the integrity of coastal systems be violated.

The approach of this project aims to intensify relations and materialise tools promoting exchanges between the scientific community and decision-makers from various sectors: politics, private sector, joint-trade organisations, associations and the various levels of territorial decision-makers and stakeholders (at local, regional or national level). Through 5 work packages organised according to 3 phases over 3 years, the project will support the development of innovative interfaces enabling easier and broader access to practical, useful and quality information in the various fields of coastal risk prevention. Beyond the expected products, the work packages and programmes will enable networking among the parties involved in coastal activities at Atlantic Arc level and make it possible for them to access the existing initiatives and good practices more easily.

More information can be found at: www.ancorim.aquitaine.fr

2.3. ATLANT-KIS: Platform of Knowledge Intensive Services for Innovation and Technology and Knowledge Transfer

Best Practice Example Listed by: MIK

ATLANT-KIS intends to provide some leverage to the Knowledge Intensive Services (KIS) sector in the Atlantic Area, proposing the development of KIS enabling policies, bridging the gaps on the demand and supply of such services at the regional and transregional level, and promoting their interaction and networking at the Atlantic Area.

The overall goal of ATLANT-KIS is to enhance the Knowledge and Technology Transfer and innovation processes on SMEs through the promotion and co-operation of Knowledge Intensive Services (KIS) at the Atlantic Area. On the other hand, this project also intends to 1) design a methodology for the mapping of regional and transregional demand and supply of KIS, transferable to other regions; 2) develop and disseminate 7 Audits on KIS demand and supply from involved regions; 3) design a methodology for the identification and transfer of Best Practices at the regional policy level, enabling the promotion and dynamics of KIS; 4) identify, exchange and disseminate to other EU regions Best Practices resulting from successful regional experiences on the field of KIS promotion; 5) transfer the Best Practices identified to the regional policies of involved regions, and to experiment new models and approaches based upon the latter, aimed at the promotion and dynamics of KIS; and 6) create stable communication links among KIS of involved regions, to foster their networking and cooperation by the development of a collaborative platform, open to all KIS from the Atlantic Area.

More information can be found at: www.atlantkis.eu

2.4. ATMOS: Atlantic Area Motorway of the Sea

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN

ATMOS aims to promote the opening of cabotage lines by creating partnerships between ship owners, shipyards, dockers, and public and private bodies and to develop connections between the ports with heavy maritime traffic. It establishes inventories of the existing infrastructures and studies the supply and demand for transport to define the necessary lines and develop Short Sea Shipping (SSS) systems using the Motorways of the Sea (MoS).

To meet their objectives, the project intends to: 1) Create a working and debating cluster between business and institutions which can work together to integrate traffic and tariffs under an SSS + MoS scheme, then evaluate the results; 2) Inventory and general evaluation of the infrastructures, technical means and procedures, and an outline sketch of the infrastructures to be implemented; 3) Compile the information and studies into the supply and demand for transport; 4) Define and outline the SSS + MoS transport lines and the infrastructures required in a port perspective and compare them to specific units of transport for each transport route; 5) Create an information platform (www.einfoleet.com), to obtain online information on costs, routes and times of transport and to raise awareness of this mode of transport; 6) Define and outline the pilot projects for using regional SSS and quantification of their impact; and 7) Publish the tools created and the results obtained for the users and the beneficiaries, with a view to encouraging the effective installation of the SSS lines.

More information can be found at: www.interreg-atlantique.org

2.5. AUXNAVALIA: Mejora de la Capacidad de Innovación y la Competitividad de la Industria Auxiliar del Sector Naval

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN

The general objective of the AUX-NAVALIA project is to improve competitiveness of the marine shipbuilding ancillary services industry, by implementing resources and activities that improve their innovation capacity. The project is therefore envisaged within a framework oriented towards reinforcing competitiveness and innovation in excellence niches of the Atlantic Area maritime economy, such as the naval sector and more specifically in the ancillary industry.

The project seeks to create coordinated structures to foster R&D and Innovation within the naval ancillary industry and facilitate innovative technology transfer in order to favour close and sustainable cooperation in this sector which will contribute positively to employment and to a greater social cohesion. The transnational dimension of the project will help to increase synergies for becoming more competitive, achieving a greater dimension and capacity and therefore leading to a better access to European development and innovation programs. The project intends to stimulate collective development of knowledge economy by increasing the role of the Atlantic Area, through reinforcement of competitiveness and innovative capacity of the maritime economy naval sector. This would benefit its integration into the “Lisbon Strategy”.

More information can be found at: www.auxnavalia.org

2.6. CINCO: Centres of Innovation and Competitiveness

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN

To overcome the new challenges posed by national and international competition and to adapt to the new technologies and environmental imperatives, the Atlantic Area must rapidly develop a ‘common acquired understanding’ founded on its capacity for innovation and its potential for knowledge. To this end, CINCO is intended to energise the ‘fabric of innovation’ of SMEs, which are the principal sources of employment and wealth in the European space. Thanks to the training of directors and managers in these enterprises, the project aims to develop a true culture of innovation. Furthermore, CINCO will develop and train ‘Agents of innovation’, who will carry out audits of enterprises in order to evaluate their level of innovation, and who will promote innovation by working with the economic agents involved.

From this project will result a study/audit on the innovation culture in the Atlantic Area through the construction of a questionnaire which will also allow to search and identify innovative SMEs. Besides it will develop a diagnostic (report) of the needs detected in the European industrial fabric, as well as the skills required in the field of innovation, which ultimately will identify topics to be developed in workshops, seminars and training programs.

Another objective is to implement a technology transfer network, in cooperation with IRC Network (Midlands Innovation Relay Centre), and to design, develop and create of the CINCO website, as well as a website observatory to collect tools, methods, good practices and innovation capacities in the Atlantic Area.

More information can be found at: www.interreg-atlantique.org

2.7. COASTADAPT: Adaptation to Climate Change in Coastal

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

CoastAdapt is a transnational project that will develop and implement a range of adaptation strategies and tools to enable people living in coastal communities take action to reduce the negative impacts as well as take advantage of the benefits, of a changing climate. CoastAdapt will form an international partnership of local municipalities, environmental organisations and academic institutions to involve local people and local government in a 'bottom-up' approach in the development of adaptive response and preparedness for the impacts of climate change. The project will also consider and develop long-term recovery planning from climate induced natural hazards. CoastAdapt will produce data; information; tools such as handbooks, vulnerability assessment frameworks, regional scenarios, and adaptation implementation strategies; and climate change networks between pilot study areas and beyond. This project also will provide a sustainable single site, one-stop web-based service to enable these resources to be accessed by end-users not just in the pilot areas, but by coastal communities and local government staff throughout all North Atlantic regions and further afield.

The project is based on five pilot study sites in Iceland, Norway, Ireland and Scotland and is part-financed by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund within the Interreg IVB Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013.

More information can be found at: www.coastadapt.org

2.8. COREPOINT: COastal REsearch and Policy INTegration

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

Funded under the INTERREG IIIB programme, Corepoint was a €4.2m project with 12 Partners from Ireland, UK, France, Netherlands and Belgium and was led by the Coastal & Marine Resources Centre in University College Cork. The Project, which ended in 2008, utilised the expertise within the project consortium to attempt to progress the development and implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) solutions across the Northwest Europe (NWE) region.

Corepoint aimed to influence policy by providing practical advice to policy makers and managers through focusing research on the issues and policies that influence coastal management at regional, national and local level. This three-pronged approach adopted by the Project yielded results with Corepoint being referenced both in Europe and also across the international arena.

More information can be found at: corepoint.ucc.ie

2.9. DEPURANAT: Treatment of Water Residues for Productive Purposes in the Rural and Natural Environment of the Atlantic Area thanks to Natural Systems of Treatment with Low Energy Costs

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN

DEPURANAT proposes to put together a system for the sustainable management of waste water, encouraging reutilisation of this in natural areas. The main objective of the project consists of stocking the water recovered locally, treating it in situ with small decentralized systems, and re-using the sub-products obtained. Cheap and simple to install, these decentralized systems contribute to improving the treatment of water and will encourage sustainable economic and financial development for rural areas.

To accomplish their objectives, the project aims to develop several activities, such as 12 demonstrative pilot projects for Natural Purification Systems (NPS) carried out in different regions (Andalucía, North of Portugal, and the Canaries), as well as their assessment and follow-up; the environmental integration of NPS by monitoring environmental parameters and defining strategies to prevent the environmental impact of NPS; economic analysis and environmental assessment of NPS; creation of a tool based on a system to guide the technicians in charge when making decisions and help them provide an answer to the problems raised by waste in residual waters; strengthening and applying the cooperation between the various socio-economic players involved or interested in managing residual waters and local development; and constitution of a network of institutions to develop strategies, promote training and dissemination of information in this field and creation of numerous dissemination tools (on paper, digital, audiovisual, posters, etc.).

More information can be found at: depuranat.itccanarias.org

2.10. EASYCO: Collaborative Atlantic Space Biogeochemical Forecasting System

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

EasyCo aims to build a Polycentric Infrastructure for Operational Ocean Modelling in the Atlantic Space (AS) by joining the capacities of the 5 partner countries to forecast hydrodynamics and biogeochemistry (BGC) at the regional scale using grid sizes of a few kilometres. EasyCo is a transversal project producing results for a wide range of users, including Navigation Safety, Fisheries, Aquaculture, Coastal Management and Meteorology. Direct end-users are institutions requiring results at the regional scale while indirect end-users are all the institutions requiring information at the local scale (e.g. Coastal managers, fish farmers, ports, water companies, water authorities) that are usually provided for by SMEs. EasyCo builds on the successful experience gathered within the project EasyCo which focused on currents and waves in the Iberian zone, widening its scope through the contribution of extra teams from France, Spain, Ireland and UK.

The specific objectives of EasyCo are: Integrating operational forecasts of currents, waves and meteorology over the whole AS; Integrating BGC models developed in the AS for producing operational BGC forecasts over the whole area; Setting up fisheries management models based on the BGC data and on the fishing effort; Setting up a filter feeders model able to relate growth, carrying capacity, primary production and circulation models; and Setting up a users-community grouping institutions needing information on currents and biological properties for their daily activities, with especial emphasis on SMEs.

More information can be found at: www.project-easy.info

2.11. EROCIPS: The Emergency Response to Coastal Oil, Chemical and Inert Pollution from Shipping

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN

The EROCIPS project aims to provide an opportune answer to oil spills, chemical and inert pollution of coastal areas, as well as to formulate a transferable methodology to supply relevant information to the stakeholders and the decision-makers, committed to fighting coastal pollution after an accident.

To achieve these objectives, it is organizing eight workshops with several initiatives, such as to develop various strategies for protection and cleaning; to organize staff training for local authorities, government representatives, industry managers and volunteers; and environmental monitoring to restore the initial coastal situation after pollution.

As results of the activities performed, the project will, for example, create a system to ensure coordinated action in the event of oil slicks; Study the incidents of marine pollution which have affected the Atlantic coasts and analyse the answers provided by the local governments; develop a Geographic Information System (GIS) allowing to organize and present geographically referenced alphanumeric data, and to produce maps; perform a coastal inventory from a study of navigable itineraries, marine traffic, local ports and type of freight transport company; elaborate a risk analyses and models for anticipating pollution; develop a method for controlling the coastline; create of an interactive map displaying the available resources, lists of people to contact in the event of an emergency and scientific and technical assessment; create a website; and set up an environmental surveillance system for the Atlantic coasts (protocols, database, advice).

More information can be found at: www.erocips.org

2.12. ECOAQUA: Establishment of a network of cross-border cooperation for the utilization of ecologically sustainable production systems in aquaculture

Best Practice Example Listed by: University of Huelva

This project pretends to establish an interregional network in scientific and technical cooperation to add in the aquiculture new species and new production systems to generate a minor environmental impact and to save energy. The main actions will be the development of prototypes to use the thermal energy in the aquiculture, the improvement of the treatment systems of the waters, the reproduction, nutrition and genetic of the interested species. This border cooperation Project between Andalusia and Algarve consists in the Exchange of information and the knowledge transfer, with the main aim of adding to the aquiculture new species and new production systems to guarantee the energetic saving. They work in different renewable energies like solar and photovoltaic cells to value the saving of the costs and the energy.

The Partners of this project are IFAPA (Instituto Andaluz de Investigación y Formación Agraria y Pesquera) – Huelva, IPIMAR - Instituto das Pescas, da Investigação e do Mar (INRB) and Universidade do Algarve – Algarve.

More information can be found at: ECOAQUA

2.13. FAME: The Future of the Atlantic Marine Environment

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN

The FAME project will be delivered by partners from 5 countries who have interest, knowledge and expertise in the marine environment, ranging from seabird tracking and monitoring to mapping, data analysis and engagement with the offshore renewable energy and fisheries sectors. The partners will monitor and track seabirds throughout the Area and, by combining this data with oceanographic information, produce comprehensive maps to inform the designation of maritime protected areas (MPAs).

The partners will communicate with a range of stakeholders in the marine environment, to minimise the impact of man's activities on important areas for marine biodiversity. This will be done through an interactive GIS website, conferences, workshops and publications. The project will also develop recommendations on the future management of MPAs. Marine wildlife does not respect country boundaries, and so by working multi-nationally the partners will be able to safeguard the Future of the Atlantic Marine Environment.

The objectives can be clearly separated into two main categories: A) seabird data gathering both on-shore and off-shore and B) management of the Marine Environment. In the first category, the project aims to, for example, improve knowledge of seabird distribution and population characteristics in the Atlantic Area and identify the marine foraging areas of key indicator seabird species, and the oceanographic features associated with these areas; and in the second has objectives such as to map marine sites that are critical to the survival of threatened/important marine seabird species; and to assess the potential for impacts of human activity (particularly fisheries & wind farms) on important sites.

More information can be found at: www.fameproject.eu

2.14. GASD: Green Atlantic for Sustainable Development

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN

GASD is both a process of integration and development of competences and methods aimed at creating a European platform of expertise and action for maritime and environmental safety. It will introduce for the first time within the framework of interregional co-operation, a concrete vision, integrated and operational from the perspective of sustainable economic development, based on an innovative approach to maritime safety and applied to the collective maritime activities of the partner regions.

This vision will be translated into practical demonstration actions on which European policies can be built and regulations integral to maritime safety, technical, scientific and technological innovation, and economic development, which will lead to the creation of a multidisciplinary cluster that will reinforce the attractiveness of all regions in the Atlantic area, making it one of the world's leading hubs for knowledge and competitiveness in the field of maritime and environmental safety – “The cluster of Maritime and Environmental Excellence”.

The project focuses on three top priorities for maritime safety: fostering a new level of cooperation for a transnational project addressing this world- scale issue; building on experience and concentration of know-how to create the first European platform of expertise in maritime safety, with international exposure; and developing activities with significant added value in science and technology to attract the business, experts, investors and innovation that play an integral role in maritime safety sciences and activities.

More information can be found at: www.interreg-atlantique.org

2.15. IMCORE: Innovative Management for Europe's Changing Coastal Resource

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

The aim of IMCORE is to promote a transnational, innovative and sustainable approach to reducing the ecological, social and economic impacts of climate change on the coastal resources of North West Europe.

The project hopes to achieve this through demonstrating how the innovative *expert couplet approach* (i.e. collaboration between coastal practitioners and scientists using the principles of sustainability science) can help with the effective implementation of adaptive management strategies for coastal resources.

Nine Expert Couplet Nodes across NW Europe will be implemented. The project will identify the impacts of a range of specified climate change scenarios on coastal sectors and the development of a response in the form of strategies for adaptive management. An output of IMCORE will be the provision of assistance to coastal managers in the development of adaptive management strategies. IMCORE will also help in the promotion of the adoption of sustainability science for coastal management among coastal practitioners, policy makers and scientists in NW Europe.

More information can be found at: www.imcore.eu

2.16. MAREN: Marine Renewable Energy, Energy Extraction and Hydro-Environmental Aspects

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

The positioning of marine renewable energy devices in estuarine and coastal waters will undoubtedly have an impact on water levels and, in particular, tidal currents, which will in turn have a significant impact on the environmental and economic aspects of the site. So-called '*clean*' energies sometimes have negative environmental impacts; therefore there is some pressure to develop a comprehensive and integrated approach to analysing all factors to assist decision makers in choosing which form of energy to develop and where to locate the generation sites. The mix and balance of different energy sources will be as important in the future to the sustainable spatial development of Europe as the development and exploitation of each type of energy itself. The

MAREN project concentrates on getting that balance right by optimising the renewable marine energy extraction potential, and minimising the hydro-environmental impact of a wide range of the most promising marine renewable energy devices.

The project partners have been chosen to represent the full range of coastal and hydrological conditions, as well as covering the four most relevant types of marine renewable energy devices. Each partner will focus on examining energy extraction and hydro-environmental aspects of a different marine renewable energy device.

Collectively, the outcomes from the project activities will provide information on the energy extraction potential of the Atlantic Area coastal waters and enable the prediction of both the impact of marine renewable energy devices on the environment (natural and human) and the impact of the environment on the performance of these devices.

More information can be found at: www.marenproject.eu

2.17. MBEO: Marine Based Employment Opportunities

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

The MBEO project (*Preparatory Action*) will seek to facilitate and promote the development of aspects of the marine tourism sector such as fisheries tourism and seafood based experiences. These are essentially new industries for many peripheral northern communities. These industries are innovative in that they aim to fuse together local marine-based knowledge, culture, heritage and products with tourism and business related skills and knowledge. The project will focus on diversifying income-generating opportunities that are specifically based on local indigenous knowledge of fishing practices, fish movements and local maritime knowledge. The project seeks to help to create a dynamic sub sector within the fishing industry and bring knowledge to areas that have not been included in NPP projects before.

Target areas include Ireland: the offshore islands of Counties Galway, Mayo, Donegal, Sligo, Cork and the mainland Connemara region of County Galway; Iceland: the Western Fjords; and Norway: the North Cape area in Finnmark with participants from Repvåg and Honningsvåg.

More information can be found at: www.northernperiphery.eu

2.18. MESH: Mapping European Seabed Habitats for Better Marine Management

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC, MIK & CRIA

MESH Atlantic - Mapping Atlantic Area Seabed Habitats for Better Marine Management is an international marine habitat mapping programme that started in June 2010, and will run for three years. A consortium of nine partners and two associate partners (eleven in total) from across France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain, gained financial support from the EU INTERREG IVB fund for this international programme. The MESH Atlantic partnership covers the Interreg (IVB) Atlantic Area, drawing together scientific and technical habitat mapping skills, expertise in data collation and its management, and proven practical experience in the use of seabed habitat maps for environmental management within national regulatory frameworks.

The general objective of MESH Atlantic is to provide harmonised seabed habitat mapping over the coastal and shelf zones of the Atlantic Area in order to inform spatial planners and management. It will assist in the proper design of member-states policies and application of their directives (mainly Habitat and Marine Strategy).

More information can be found at: www.meshatlantic.eu

2.19. MICORE: Morphological Impacts and Coastal Risks Induced by Extreme Storm Events

Best Practice Example Listed by: CRIA

The transnational project MICORE (EU Environment research programme is part of sub-activity Natural Hazards and FP7 Framework programme and Calls). MICORE aims to undertake a review of historical marine storms that had a significant impact on a representative number of sensitive European regional coastlines, collate data related to occurrence of extreme events and socio-economic impacts in a database, undertake monitoring of nine European case study sites for a period of one year, test and develop reliable methods for numerical modelling of storm-induced morphological changes, set-up real-time warning systems and to implement their use within Civil Protection agencies, and to disseminate results to end users at national, European and International levels.

More information can be found at: www.micore.eu

2.20. NEA: Development of the water sports sector in the Atlantic Area

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN

NEA is a development project for the water sports industry along the Atlantic front involving inter-regional collaboration. The project's action plan involves regional and public authorities and the water sports industry. It aims to create regional networks to develop the water sports industry in the partner regions and an interregional network to promote and encourage regional actions.

It is setting up the following actions: creation of regional networks to develop the water sports industry in the partner regions; inventory of what is currently available in the partner regions and possible suggestions; determining the elements making up a water sports offer common to the whole Atlantic Area and a lead project for each region; creation of interregional tools: a guide for the region, creation of an Atlantic Area water sports label (NEA); training sessions in the water sports sector aimed at encouraging tourists and residents; edition of a style guide and common promotional material; and participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, organisation of inter-regional seminars, organisation of national and international water sports events.

To accomplish their objectives, the project aims to create development networks for nautical activities in the Atlantic area, perform a preliminary study on nautical facilities in these regions, determine the elements of a shared nautical approach in the Atlantic Area; and identify the elements specific to regional nautical facilities.

More information can be found at: www.interreg-atlantique.org

2.21. NEA2: NAUTISME ESPACE ATLANTIQUE 2

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN & WESTBIC

The European project NEA2 aims to co-ordinate and sustainably develop the marine leisure sector in each of the regions along the Atlantic Area (including training organisations, boating marinas, manufacturing, retail and activity providers), through the strengthening of co-operation on three themed strands: economic development, environmental sustainability, and social cohesion. For each of these themes, the project foresees the realisation of a number of common actions each undertaken by a number of the participating international partners, and a number of local actions each managed by individual regional project partners.

Made up of 23 European partners to run for a total of 3 years (Jan.2009 – Dec.2011), NEA2 was approved by the Atlantic Area Transnational Cooperation Programme (Interreg IVB), under which it will benefit from an intervention from the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund). This project follows on from the first NEA project (Nov.2004 – Oct.2007), Interreg IIIB project which was very successful having brought together 11 partners to deliver a common objective: the co-ordinated development of the water sports tourism sector.

More information can be found at: www.nea2.eu

2.22. PORTONOVO

Best Practice Example Listed by: MIK

In accordance with the WFD, the specific uses with high economic and social value carried out by ports are specifically recognized, this way their water bodies are also recognized as heavily modified water bodies (HMWB). This recognition justifies the reduction of its environmental objectives to fulfil the named good ecological potential, and demands a specific management system. In this context, this project intends to develop great

quality searching results to strengthen the present situation in accordance with the European legal framework about water quality in harbours. Definitively, PORTONOVO intends to standardize a methodology for the water quality management in port areas all over along the Atlantic Area.

More information can be found at: www.portonovoproject.org

2.23. PRESPO: Desarrollo Sostenible de las Pesquerías Artesanales del Arco Atlántico

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN, MIK, University of Huelva & CRIA

PRESPO is a trans-national project constituted by 11 partners (2 Portuguese, 6 Spanish and 3 French) and 6 associates partners (4 French and 2 Spanish, all regional authorities) and is represented by Research Institutes (IPIMAR, IFREMER, IFAPA); Universities (University of Porto, University of Cádiz and University of Huelva); Regional Administrations and non-profit organisations (CETMAR, AZTI, AGLIA, RICEP), covering all regions of the Atlantic Area of Portugal, Spain and France, except the region of Cantabria. With the project PRESPO it is expected to improve the current fisheries management policy of common fishing resources in the Atlantic Area that are exploited by the artisanal fleet, through the development of alternative tools towards to an integrate management of coastal fisheries. PRESPO will contribute to the organisation of costal fisheries and for the promotion of their sustainability, with positive repercussions at social-economic level, in particular through the maintenance of jobs in the fisheries sector, as well as in its associated industries.

PRESPO is based on several clearly innovative components, not only in its methodological aspects and in the tools that will be used / developed but also in its strategic focus. An innovative aspect of this project is the creation of Observatories of the artisanal fisheries, at local or regional level, which will act as a forum of analysis and discussion among professionals, researchers and local administrations, leading to scientific-technical proposals to the Fisheries Administration, thus ensuring a high involvement and cooperation by all partners.

More information can be found at: www.cripsul.ipimar.pt

2.24. PROPOSSE: Promotion of Short Sea Shipping and Co-Operation with SMEs

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

The overall objective of PROPOSSE is to promote short sea shipping as a real alternative to other means of the transportation of goods (e.g. road) between SMEs from the Interior and the ports of Aveiro, Gijón, Le Havre, Poole and Cork.

These goals will be achieved through cooperation between ports and organizations representing SMEs and promotion of regional development in their hinterlands; identification of the main barriers and potential opportunities for the transfer modal cargo SME Andalusia Short Sea Shipping, and Motorways of the Sea; and increase of awareness of both SMEs and industrial transport operators to the potential and benefits of change modal.

More information can be found at: www.proposse.eu

2.25. PROTEUS: Conversion of Natural Resources and Marine Waste into Products of High-Added Value for Industrial Applications

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN

PROTEUS purpose is to take benefit and bring value to marine resources and waste. Rather than exploit these resources the project aims to revolutionize the way these resources are used in an efficient manner.

The Specific objectives are: sustainable development of high value products based on a conversion and recovery of marine resources and waste; development, transfer and exploitation of technological innovation with a view to sustainable exploration of local natural resources, as well as improving the competitive position of companies (producers and processors) of marine products; and development of a wide range of innovative products, based on marine resources (algae, crustaceans, mollusks, among others) and industrial wastes (resulting from food processing of fish and shellfish).

The project potential applications include the development of (i) materials and compounds with various degrees of purity for biological and medical fields, (ii) new formulations of biodegradable polymers for biomedical or environmental applications, (iii) agricultural production and aquaculture and (iv) new resins for coatings, inks, and adhesives among others.

More information can be found at: www.3bs.uminho.pt

2.26. QPEIXE: Searching for the Portuguese Marine Fauna

Best Practice Example Listed by: CRIA

QPEIXE is Centre of Marine Sciences (CCMAR) project that aims to obtain information on several marine species (both fish and invertebrates) of the Portuguese waters. During three years scientists and general public will participate and gather information on species distribution and abundance along the shallow coastal waters of Portugal. It is a project particular pertinent by interconnecting coastal tourism, in particular sub-aquatic tourism with scientific knowledge in biodiversity and science communication activities.

More information can be found at: www.qpeixe.com

2.27. RAI: Iberian Margin Ocean Observatory

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN

RAIA aims to develop an oceanographic observatory made up of various infrastructures used in oceanographic observation, forecasting data models and a meteorological platform. The creation of these facilities devoted to the observation of the marine environment, will enable northern Portugal and Galicia to meet the current oceanographic requirements, in monitoring and modelling. In turn, economic activities such as shipping, maritime safety, tourism and fisheries will be able to benefit from the data, services and products developed by the Centre.

This project aims to develop new technologies used to construct and implement boarder monitoring structures; establish a platform for data management and distribution; adapt and validate models of operational oceanography that reproduce the regional ocean dynamics; develop and implement a wide range of products such as: ocean current models, water quality analysis and meteorological forecasting; and to development a management model for the ocean border observatory.

From this project is expected to result an oceanographic observatory in which institutions involved in maritime operations and end users can use the facility in order to ensure their future sustainability and to improve the management and cross-border coordination of operational oceanography. This centre will contribute to a better understanding of the marine border between Galicia and the North de Portugal; it will also be important for the economic and scientific development, maritime safety, marine resource management, environmental management, monitoring of coastal water quality and preservation of the coastal communities.

More information can be found at: www.observatorioraia.org

2.28. REINFORCE: REsource INFrastructures for monitoring, adapting and protecting european atlantic FORests under Changing climatE

Best Practice Example Listed by: MIK

The REINFFORCE is a 4 year project co-financed by the European Union program ERDF-INTERREG IV Atlantic Area, where a total of 12 regional, national and international organizations, from Portugal, Spain, France and United Kingdom are working for building a forest resources related infrastructure for making research on adaptation of the Atlantic forest to Climate Change. The coordination of the project is done by the Regional Office EFIAtlantic hosted at IEFC office in Bordeaux (France).

One of the main actions for this infrastructure is to set along the Atlantic Coast a network with a total of 33 arboreta from *Alentejo* in Portugal to South Eastern Scotland. The network will include also in Centro and Norte of Portugal; *Galicia, Cantabria, País Vasco, Navarra* and *Castilla y León*, in Spain; *Aquitaine, Poitou-Charentes, Bretagne, Pays de la Loire, Basse-Normandie* and *Haute-Normandie*, in France; Devon and East Wales in United Kingdom, covering a latitudinal gradient of almost 30 degrees from South to North.

More information can be found at: reinforce.iefc.net

2.29. SAIL WEST: Sail West Leisure Project

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

Donegal County Council has been working with partners in Northern Ireland and Scotland since 2007 to develop a coordinated plan for marine leisure in the shared coastal zone. The west coast of Scotland is one of the world's most popular sailing destinations and wishes to work with the north coast of Ireland to develop a new sailing zone and marine leisure brand through renewed infrastructure and marketing. Donegal County Council is the lead partner in this initiative and has drawn up an agreed strategic plan.

INTERREG and the three National Governments have agreed to support the plan's €7.4m investment with grants totaling €7.025m over the period 2009-2013. This includes €1.6m to develop Bunagee Harbour in Inishowen as a sea angling and marine leisure centre. Donegal will also participate in an €800,000 marketing initiative with its partners that will put the county's marine leisure product in the shop window with that of the Ulster coastline and the West Coast of Scotland.

More information can be found at: donegalcoco

2.30. SCSC: Smart Coasts= Sustainable Communities

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

The SCSC project focuses on two inter-dependent demonstration projects which will be established to illustrate the methods needed to implement real-time bathing water management, public health protection and sustainable bathing water compliance in complex bathing water systems and off the Irish east coast (south of Dublin adjacent to the Dargle catchment).

SMART COAST= SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES will complement both the aims of the Lisbon Strategy and the Gothenburg Declaration by contributing directly to sustainable development. The core aim of this project is to equip Irish and Welsh INTERREG area communities to maintain the economic and strategic value of near-shore waters to their economies. This will be done by facilitating application of new real-time management systems, first suggested by the World Health Organisation and soon to be allowed within EU Directive criteria. This will ensure no adverse loss of beach awards, such as blue flags, and the maintenance of public health through deployment of ICT tools and real-time public information systems as suggested by WHO and allowed in (but not a regulatory requirement of) in the 2006 Bathing Water Directive.

More information can be found at: [SCSC](#)

2.31. SEACASE: Sustainable Extensive And Semi-Intensive Coastal Aquaculture In Southern Europe

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN

The final goal of SEACASE is to develop effective tools for maintenance of competitiveness, productivity, profitability and thus sustainability of extensive and semi-intensive aquaculture production in Southern Europe, while minimizing its environmental impacts and improving the quality and public image of its products. The project was based on case studies covering a wide variety of production systems and geographical locations (Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and Greece), although some basic technological improvements were also studied.

Environmentally friendly farming protocols were analyzed and/or developed and certification possibilities assessed and proposed for voluntary use by the industry. Quality markers were studied in order to be able to differentiate aquaculture products from extensive and semi-intensive systems from the ones produced in intensive systems. Some of such markers may also facilitate product traceability. A socio-economic assessment of the selected production systems was produced. A patrimonial audit of traditional extensive and improved extensive systems was implemented over the case study of integrated eel fisheries and oyster refinement.

The project aims to improve the quality (through the development of environmentally-friendly farming protocols for certification opportunities; the promotion of Codes of Conduct in European Aquaculture; and the promotion of product safety and animal welfare) increase the competitiveness (developing technological improvements for optimizing existing production; disseminating the knowledge on production processes in Southern Europe; and promoting diversification of aquaculture products), and protecting environment and society (focusing on the preservation of wetlands and coastal areas of particular ecological interest; the development of innovative diets to reduce waste output; assessing socio-economical relevance of the sector; and promoting employment opportunities.

More information can be found at: www.seacase.org

2.32. ShareBiotech: Sharing Life Science Infrastructures and Skills to Benefit the Atlantic Area Biotechnology Sector

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN, WESTBIC & CRIA

The ShareBiotech project is an INTERREG IVB Atlantic Area European Programme which contributes to the 1st priority of the programme aiming to promote transnational entrepreneurial and innovation networks. It answers especially to objective 1.1 which is to develop knowledge transfer between companies and research centres. ShareBiotech's main objective is to strengthen the biotechnology sector within the Atlantic Area. Led by French organisations, the project is implemented by a consortium of 10 partners from 4 member-states (France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain) and 7 regions. ShareBiotech will make the access to technological core facilities easier for researchers and companies – in particular SMEs – working in the fields of human health, nutrition, agriculture/food-processing, cosmetics, marine biology and environment. Thereby, it will contribute to facilitate R&D projects by providing high standards of technological service offers or through collaborative research projects.

More information can be found at: www.sharebiotech.net

2.33. SEAFARE: Sustainable and Environmentally Friendly Aquaculture for the Atlantic

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

SEAFARE brings together applied R&D centres, aquaculture industry organisations and environmental agencies across the Atlantic maritime region, to promote sustainable expansion of European aquaculture. SEAFARE will develop solutions to specific constraints on industry development for Europe's fish and shellfish farmers, through species diversification and development of low-intensity aquaculture systems that are compatible with sensitive coastal habitats. Thus it will provide models for profitable expansion of the aquaculture sector that can be integrated with sustainable management of coastal ecosystems. The partnership will bridge the knowledge gap to facilitate rapid and effective capitalisation of project results as tangible and sustainable examples of good practice to inform sustainable industrial expansion, environmental management and policy development.

More information can be found at: www.aquatt.ie

2.34. SPAA: Sustainable Promotion of Atlantic Areas

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN

This project takes into consideration the economic disadvantages of the surrounding regions of the Atlantic Area and the study of how a promotional integrated system could support these regions and fight the regional imbalances. The project proposes to strengthen and promote the Atlantic Area identity through the systematic analysis of bringing the regions closer one to each other thanks to the promotion of a strategy.

SPAA will act on 4 main points: 1) Marketing Atlantic partnership; 2) Development of a marketing strategy; 3) Attracting visitors, local population and communities through the development and implementation of new services and initiatives: creation of thematic routes, of a new common image/touristic label, of a "Visitor Cards", promotion of craft fairs in town centres; and 4) Economical impact of local marketing: implementation of strategies about promotion, in order to understand the impact of the project.

The main objectives of the project are to explore the transnational and interregional levels of the best way to create associations that promote various sectors; use of distinctive qualities of a place as a marketing tool; examine the impact of the promotion of the sub-regional centres created on the regions and its contribution to the polycentric economic development of the Atlantic Area; use the interregional knowledge in order to develop a promotional methodology; and implement a common communication tool for the promotion and the marketing in the Atlantic Area. To largely diffuse the results and the information in the Atlantic Area.

More information can be found at: www.spaa-atlantic.org

2.35. SSSAA: Promotion of Cabotage ("Short Sea Shipping") in the Atlantic Area

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN

The free circulation of goods has led to a significant increase in intra-European commercial exchanges, notably in the centre of the European Union. This concentration has led to an imbalance with the congestion of the great road axes of European on the one hand, and the pushing aside of the peripheral regions, such as the Atlantic Area, on the other hand. In this context, SSSAA proposes to create solutions encouraging cabotage among the regions of the Atlantic Area, through the creation of new lines for navigation and through energising the existing lines.

As result, this project intent to achieve an analysis of freight traffic in Europe (flow of certain goods between the Iberian Peninsula and France and the other regions in Western Europe, between the United Kingdom and the other countries in Western Europe and between France and the countries in Central Europe); the identification of the main bottlenecks in the Atlantic Arc to find out in which situations SSS might rival with road transport and detect possible new sea routes; study the current offer of short distance sea transport in the Atlantic Arc; proposal for measures to be adopted: opening new routes which are justifiable from an economic and technical and timesaving point of view; information on the possibilities of obtaining environmental certificates for companies using non-polluting means of transport; and organisation of 3 information seminars on the project and participation in an SSS Conference.

More information can be found at: www.interreg-atlantique.org

2.36. AQUAGENET: Red Transnacional de Biotecnología en Acuicultura

Best Practice Example Listed by: University of Huelva

The aim of the project AQUAGENET is centred in the development of the knowledge and the biotechnological tools in the aquiculture, through the creation of a transnational network to cooperate in these fields in the SUDOE regions. The project pretends to apply new biotechnological technologies to impel the genetic researches in aquiculture and design new tools to identify and select the most important species in trade.

More information can be found at: www.interreg-sudoe.eu

2.37. SUSFISH: Shellfish productivity in the Irish Sea: Working towards a sustainable future

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

SUSFISH will produce guidelines for future fisheries management, ensuring sustainable development of the shellfish industry in Ireland and Wales for the next 50-100 years. This will be achieved by assessing the effects of climate change (via oceanographic models) on shellfish productivity in the Irish Sea and determining adaptation or mitigation strategies for the industry, including recommendations for protection of certain areas (Marine Spatial Planning- MSP). Aspects to be included are how current commercial shellfish productivity in the Irish Sea will respond to changes in temperature, salinity, water quality (eutrophication via organic and inorganic nutrients, acidification), sea level rise and changes in ocean current regimes. A range of climate change scenarios will be assessed from the IPCC worst-case scenario to conditions in the present day. SUSFISH will have significant socio-economic benefit for both Wales and Ireland, and will also be of international importance, as the project addresses issues that are of global concern.

More information can be found at: www.susfish.com

2.38. SUSTAIN: Assessing Sustainability and Strengthening Operational Policy

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

The increasing intensity of human activities along our coastlines (e.g. the development of ports and harbours, coastal protection, land reclamation, tourism and sand/gravel extraction) has a severe impact on coastal communities and natural habitats. The EC has adopted a renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy which aims to bring a high level of environmental protection, social equity and cohesion, economic prosperity and active promotion of sustainable development worldwide. There are multiple inter-linkages between the key challenges; for example between the use of renewable energy and climate change.

The key objective of SUSTAIN is to have in place, at the end of three years, a fully implementable policy tool, applicable for all 22 coastal states of the EU, which will ensure that the integrated management of coastal issues will be sustainable. This entails the agreement within the project, of a set of criteria which are readily measurable and which cover both the threats of an unsustainable development and the opportunities provided by a sustainable future which faces all coastal authorities and communities throughout Europe.

The SUSTAIN project partnership comprises 13 partners (including regional and local authorities, universities and NGOs); and the project is pan-European in scope with partners representing the North and South Atlantic seaboard, the Mediterranean, the Baltic and Black Seas.

More information can be found at: www.sustain-eu.net

2.39. UAN: Underwater Acoustic Network

Best Practice Example Listed by: CRIA

SIPLAB develops several projects, an example is UAN - Underwater Acoustic Network. Its main objective is to conceive, develop and test at sea an innovative wireless network integrating submerged, terrestrial and aerial sensors for the protection of off-shore and coastline critical infrastructures. This project is funded by EU under FP7 Collaborative projects.

More information can be found at: www.ua-net.eu

2.40. WATER: Warning of Algal Toxin Events to Support Aquaculture in the NPP

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

Monitoring of the environment for potentially harmful phytoplankton and their biotoxins in shellfish is a requirement in EU member states. Time delays in achieving results, however, cause unnecessary losses to industry, particularly in peripheral regions. This project focuses on the provision of new methodologies that will provide: (1) rapid, on site analysis for the presence of toxins in shellfish and (2) the application of simple procedures whereby harmful phytoplankton events can be predicted. These techniques are highly suited to peripheral regions. A sustainable service will be put in place, including the provision of training courses, providing these methods for industry; thereby facilitating the development of aquaculture throughout the region as forewarning of harmful events is an essential element to further development of the shellfish aquaculture industry.

More information can be found at: www.nppwater.com

3. NETWORKING PROJECTS

3.1. AAPUBLICSERV: Building Sustainable Public Services in the Atlantic Arc

Best Practice Example Listed by: MIK

AAPUBLICSERV aims to develop a longterm system of a transnational innovation and a Community able to establish an eadministration sustainable in the Atlantic Area.

The objectives of the project are to: 1. Develop methods and approaches to build transnational e-services, particularly eAdmin services; 2. Use the tools to create a number of transnational multilingual e-services; and 3. Pilot an innovation process designed to transfer products developed by the public sector for wider use in the Atlantic Arc.

The project partnership is composed by Ernact EEIG (IE), as lead partner, and Derry City Council (UK), Department of Environment (UK), Donegal County Council (IE), EMCANTA (ES), Fomento de San Sebastian (ES), and Cardiff Council (UK).

More information can be found at: www.eurocean.org/np4/362.html

3.2. ARCOPOL: Atlantic Regions' Coastal Pollution, Response and Preparedness

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN & WESTBIC

ARCOPOL is proposed by a consortium bringing together most of the partners involved in EROCIPS (Interreg III B - focused on the prevention, response to and mitigation of oil spills) that aims to improve prevention, response and mitigation capabilities against oil, HNS and inert spills and to establish the basis for a sustainable Atlantic network of experts supported by adequate information, data exchange and management tools.

To achieve this goal ARCOPOL intends to: 1) incorporate outputs from EROCIPS into national, regional and local strategic response levels and to encourage development of transferable transnational techniques that strengthen statutory and non statutory emergency response; 2) improve response capabilities in the event of HNS and inert spills and to include them in emergency action plans; 3) improve the level of awareness and training of the potential responders and increase the degree of stakeholder involvement; 4) encourage cross border collaboration between neighbouring countries to improve response strategies and enhance mutual aid capabilities, facilitating joint cross border training and exercises in the partner regions; and 5) improve mitigation capabilities by assessing current claim and compensation mechanisms as well as ecological damage compensation procedures and by developing guidelines, tools and standard methodologies.

The project will be supported by an Advisory Body comprised of key authorities, experts and industry delegates and will look for the involvement of relevant stakeholders and organizations through the creation of the basis for a sustainable network of experts on spill and HNS response of the Atlantic Area supported by adequate information and data exchange and management tools.

More information can be found at: www.arcopol.eu

3.3. CELTIC WAVE: One Sea, Six Ports, Endless Promise

Best Practice Example Listed by: CASS

The CELTIC WAVE project is a highly innovative partnership funded through ERDF within the Interreg 4A Programme. The aim of the project is to facilitate the development and growth of the cruise ship industry in the Irish Sea. Celtic Wave is a Welsh Irish collaborative partnership. Three Welsh ports, Anglesey, Milford Haven and Swansea have joined forces with three ports on the south and east coast of Ireland, Dublin, Cork and Waterford. The goal of the project is to harness the unique Celtic cultural identity to promote the Irish Sea as a Cruise destination. The Irish Sea region boasts a distinct cultural identity, innumerable historical attractions, unsurpassed literary and artistic excellence, and great food. Beauty abounds throughout and the locals pride themselves as a people who have always known the meaning of welcome.

This project aims to create one managed brand for the Irish Sea, a consistent welcome for cruise passengers who visit the 6 ports of the Irish Sea and a strong working coalition of cruise industry partner organisations in the Celtic nations of Ireland and Wales, as well as to promote the Irish Seas as a cruise ship destination.

Beyond the cultural aspects, the area is attractive to Cruises due to the wealth of ports in relatively close proximity to one another which can reduce the ecological footprint. While this partnership is project-based, the long-term goal is to keep the partnership working to continue to benefit from cruise tourism in the Irish Sea.

More information can be found at: celticwave.eu

3.4. CRUISE ATLANTIC EUROPE

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC

The Atlantic Area comprises one of the most important maritime coastlines in Europe, encompassing close to 70 million inhabitants. It is a coastline that accommodates a large number of ports and major maritime cities with long traditions and vibrant dynamism. The Atlantic Europe Partnership has been created to reinforce the position of the Atlantic area in the European cruise tourism market. The creation and promotion of new tourist products, through the action of a network of ports, cities and regions, emphasises the value of economic prosperity, regional culture and Atlantic identity. The diverse number of ports and attractions that feature along the European Atlantic coastline allows for a wide range of tourism cruise routes.

The Cruise Atlantic Europe partnership is the initiative of a group of ports on the Atlantic front including Lisbon, Leixões, A Coruña, Bilbao, Brittany, Dover and Cork, that has as its purpose to reinforce the position of the Atlantic Area in the European cruise tourism market.

More information can be found at: www.cruiseatlanticeurope.com

3.5. FAROS: Integral Networking of Fishing Sector Actors to Organize a Responsible, Optimal and Sustainable Exploitation of Marine Resources

Best Practice Example Listed by: CRIA

FAROS is an European project co-funded under the EU LIFE programme, which aims the development and implementation of an efficient and integral discards and by-catch management network, implying all actors present in the fishing sector (fleets, ports, auctions, industries, etc.), which both aims the minimisation of discards/by-catch as well as their optimal valorisation to recover and to produce valuable chemicals of interest in the food and pharmaceutical industry. These valorisation technologies were already stated in a previous LIFE Project called BE-FAIR (www.befairproject.com). This objective complements the European Commission guidelines cited above oriented to the responsible and sustainable management of the European fishing activity, specially in what refers to “the reduction of unwanted by-catches and progressive elimination of discards” and “making the best possible use of the captured resources avoiding its waste”. In this way, the project objective aims to contribute to the minimisation of the adverse ecological and environmental impact of fishing activities, by helping fleets comply with the so-called “no-discard” or “zero-waste” production aboard which, in agreement with the common fisheries policy, is aimed to promote a responsible and sustainable management of fisheries.

More information can be found at: www.farosproject.eu

3.6. MARINE: MARitime Incident Research and Innovation NETWORK

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN

The MARINE project aims at creating and fostering a Network of Excellence to promote the development and the transfer of knowledge and innovation in the field of maritime incidents within the context of maritime security and of protection of marine habitats. This involves the setting up of a network of expert bodies in research and development of innovative activities as well as the establishment of links with users and technology transfer organisations.

The strategic objectives of the MARINE network are to Develop a model of organization excellence based on a network structure; stimulate the development and the creation of competitive economic activities; lead the development of new technologies, techniques, high added-value products and services addressed to the identified application fields; identify regional and industry strengths and weaknesses and promote solutions for the relevant social, technological and commercial challenges in the field of maritime incidents; contribute to the internationalization of the network as well as of the involved entities, profiting from the high international demand concerning the application domain; and build a sustainable network for Research and Innovation in Maritime Incidents.

More information can be found at: www.interreg-atlantique.org

3.7. MOFISH: Multiple Objectives in the Management of EU Fisheries

Best Practice Example Listed by: University of Huelva

This project, developed under the EU 5th Framework Programme during 2000-2002, had as main aims developing and analysing the objective structure within EU fisheries management from the perspectives of all key players: managers, politicians, fishermen, researchers and other interest groups. The project developed a multi-objective framework for the analysis of fisheries management in line with the aims of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) embodies, to define the objectives and criteria intrinsic to the fisheries management process and the CFP, as well as other attributes and goals, to elicit preferences of the different interest groups with significant interests in the EU fisheries management process, to develop several case studies of EU fisheries (North Sea, English Channel and Spanish fisheries) to model the defined objectives and attributes using the elicited preferences and to analyse the results and trade-offs between the multi-objectives for all case studies to investigate the main question of how an optimally managed fishery would look from the perspective of the groups individually, by country and EU-wide. The project is multi-disciplinary, drawing on expertise from economists, mathematicians and computer scientists, as well as the fisheries, as part of a partnership consisting of Centre for Economics and Management of Aquatic Resources (CEMARE), UK, Centre de Droit et Economie de la Mer (CEDEM), France, Modelización Económica y Matemática de Pesquerías (MEMPE Research group of the University of Huelva), Spain, Danish Institute of Agricultural and Fisheries Economics (SJFI), Denmark and IFM.

More information can be found at: [MOFISH](#)

3.8. NETAlgae: Inter-regional Network to promote sustainable development in the marine Algal

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC, CRIA & MIK

The European macroalgae industry is based on the harvesting of natural resources of macroalgae. Worldwide macroalgae production (including brown, red and green seaweeds) increases every year. In Europe the production has been stable since 1960, but has decreased in the last 10 years. The further expansion of the industry depends on a stable access to raw material, development of valuable products and the transfer of expertise between developed and less developed regions.

Therefore, the project NETAlgae aims to create a European network of relevant stakeholders within the marine macroalgae sector. Compilation of information from different regions will result in a wide ranging policy study of existing practice within the macroalgae industry. Analysis of the results will establish a best practice model and suggest policies for the successful, sustainable commercial utilization of marine macroalgae resources. The study of national and regional development policies and regulatory environments will identify and promote an existing development and regulatory model, or lead to development of a best practice model. The network is expected to make progress towards developing industrial, commercial and scientific links and fosters a culture of trade and cooperation between the memberships, and will include primary producers, processors, technology suppliers, process consultants, research institutes, development agencies, local governments and relevant community groups and other stakeholders. A European macroalgae congress will bring together industry, policy makers, environmentalists, and regulators with a view to developing a sustainable industrial macroalgae sector across the Atlantic seaboard.

More information can be found at: www.netalgae.eu

3.9. RISING TIDE: Connecting Celtic Communities

Best Practice Example Listed by: WESTBIC & CASS

RISING TIDE covers a geographical area of 6 counties on the West Wales Coast, with a similar geographical area in South East Ireland. By investing in 6 maritime events in towns within these areas, over the 3 year period of the project; it is hoped that this will bring a positive effect on those local economies, whilst also creating some sustainability for the future RISING TIDE project aims to support social inclusion through joint activities, events and training. The project also aims to develop and promote joint opportunities for sustainable community regeneration, drawing on and giving recognition to the maritime identity, maritime heritage and coastal environment of the cross border region.

The project aims to develop accredited training programmes, with progression routes for marginalised members of the community, which will include the participants' woodworking, construction and design skills, as well as communication, team building and PC use. The project will also work on community regeneration programmes to develop local events, activities and projects with local stakeholders in the development of maritime tourism and the promotion of local enterprise.

RISING TIDE will deliver three key aims, through a mixed programme of supporting existing events and festivals, as well as creating new opportunities to develop: 1. Social inclusion through training and development; 2. Promotion of maritime heritage and culture; and 3. Economic regeneration in communities.

More information can be found at: www.rising-tide.eu

3.10. WINATLANTIC: Western Internationalisation Network Atlantic

Best Practice Example Listed by: UPIN

WIN Atlantic (Western Internationalisation Network Atlantic) is a three year project which aims to form networks of Innovative Start Ups and Small to Medium Enterprises within three target sectors: ICT, biotechnology and energy environment, and help them promote their goods and services across international markets.

More information can be found at: www.winatlantic.com



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