Blue BIO technology HYBRID TRAINING SCHOOL

Limassol, Cyprus

2-6 May, 2022

Hybrid Training School, an Ocean of Opportunities in the Blue Biotechnology sector: Seagrass biotechnology and biomaterials as case-studies |
Workshop for Working Group 3&5: Communication Skills for scaling-up processes

Why?

An ocean of opportunities opens up from the ongoing better understanding of marine ecosystems and sustainably using marine resources. With revenue of €1 billion in Europe only in 2020, blue biotechnology is a promising field for blue growth. The European Commission has already earmarked 234 million euros under the Horizon Europe for research and innovation programme in the period 2021-2027. Transdisciplinary collaboration is now needed to speed up the process and ensure at the same time achieving high sustainability goals by meeting UN SDG14 “life below water”. However, there is a collaboration and communication gap between science, industry and society and more efforts are required for meeting pending societal challenges such as well-being, food security, energy security, climate crisis and ocean health. Blue Biotechnology can play a significant role in providing solutions to these challenges. Increasing the critical mass of early-stage investigators with transdisciplinary skills, including entrepreneurial ones, is needed to support the BluebRI.

Who?

Early-stage investigators (preferably M.Sc. holders and up to 10 years after PhD) with innovative ideas willing to advance the blue biotechnology sector are welcome. This includes and is not limited to biologists, oceanographers, chemists, biotechnologists, biomaterial scientists, chemical and biological engineers, biomanufacturing scientists, data scientists, entrepreneurs, marketers, etc.

How?

The hybrid training includes an introduction to two selected topics with significant potential in marine biotechnology: seagrass biotechnology and biomaterials.

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By the end of the hybrid training school, the participants are expected to:

- Name the main opportunities and challenges of the BluebRI in the framework of the UN SDGs
- Understand Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and ethics obligations in the blue biotechnology
- Understand the main steps needed to advance the technology readiness
- Use problem-solving methods to address a specific challenge, using seagrass biotechnology and biomaterials as case studies
- Organize ideas and select "the best one" to achieve a responsible BluebRI

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- Advocate in favour and judge ideas taking into consideration different criteria
- Learning by doing in a real-case scenario in which your team will start with an idea and go through all the steps until pitching in front of international scientists and business panel of judges
- Learn how to prepare a slide deck pitch presentation for investors and funders

Applicants from any country are welcome. A selected number of applicants that will chose to participate in person and are from COST full and cooperating members will have reimbursed a lump sum to cover travelling and accommodation costs, based on internal COST rules. Short-term scientific mission (STSM) opportunities will be given to highly motivated participants as a reward and the means to explore further their ideas.

Interested applicants can submit their application by the 22nd of March 2022 by filling up the form **here**. Candidates eligible for reimbursement will be shortlisted and informed. Candidates who will not be eligible for reimbursement can still participate in the hybrid training school and the WG3&WG5 Communication Skills for Scaling-up Processes Workshop but at their own costs. All selected candidates will work in transdisciplinary groups. Trainees will receive learning material accompanied and tasks to be prepared before the in-person training week. Completion of the tasks is a prerequisite for the in-person training. Participants are expected to be actively involved during the training school. A participation certificate will be given to all participants.

For any inquiry please contact **Dr. Marlen I. Vasquez** at marlen.vasquez@cut.ac.cy.

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Organizers

Organizer

Prof. Robert Marks, Ben Gurion University
Prof. Marks is Professor and Chair of the Department of Biotechnology Engineering at the Ben Gurion University. He teaches bio-entrepreneurship and innovation lab at his department. In addition to his academic duties, he has co-founded several biotech start-ups.

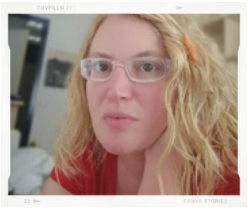
Dr. Arita Dubnika RTU RBIDC, Riga Technical University
Her main research area is the development of bioactive molecule delivery systems and in vitro studies of materials for tissue engineering. Dr Dubnika coordinates national and international research projects. She has also received a Baltic American Freedom Foundation fellowship for a research project at The Biomaterials and Advanced Drug Delivery Laboratory (Stanford University School of Medicine), USA and Julia Polak European Doctorate Award, presented by the European Society for Biomaterials. Dr Dubnika is an expert of the Latvian Council of Science in the fields of "Materials science" and "Chemical Engineering".

Organizer

Host

Dr. Marlen I. Vasquez, Department of Chemical Engineering, Cyprus University of Technology
Her research interests relate to environmental toxicology by understanding the effects of multiple stressors in aquatic environments related to human activities. She investigates from the molecular to the community level using *in vitro*, model aquatic organisms and high-throughput methods for in situ bioassessment. She also applies routine environmental toxicology bioassays to evaluate novel chemical compounds and assess the efficiency of water treatment processes. She acts as the Vice-chair of the Ocean4Biotech COST Action aiming at achieving sustainable use of aquatic resources in the biotech sector and evaluating the efficiency of upcoming water treatment technologies in removing contaminants of emerging concern.

In person trainers



Dr. Ana Rotter, Marine Biology Station Piran, National Institute of Biology Slovenia

Shortly before obtaining her PhD in 2011, she was awarded the L'Oreal for women in science scholarship as recognition for her scientific work on statistical design and analysis of biological data. She has a bachelor's degree in microbiology. She has participated in several marine biotechnology related international projects and is leading the research programme entitled "Marine and microbial biotechnology" in Slovenia as well as the chair of COST Action Ocean4Biotech. She is a science communication expert appointed by the European Commission.

Mrs Xenia Schneider, XPRO Consulting

Xenia Schneider is a business strategist and a Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) practitioner. She consults SMEs and research centres in RRI and exploitation of innovation in sectors such as biotechnology, bioeconomy, water, and blue economy. She currently chairs the work group of Legal aspects, IPR and Ethics at the COST Action Ocean4Biotech. She has worked in the corporate world, in start-ups and SMEs. She was employed by the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations. She has hands-on experience from international pharmaceutical corporate financial and regulatory operations to biotechnology start-ups setup, due-diligence processes, and growth operations. She is a skilled project manager with over 25 years of experience in international innovation projects.

Dr. Giovanna Romano, Marine Biotechnology Department, Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn

Her current research interest is the identification and exploitation of microalgae-derived natural compounds for the development of new products for pharmaceutical, cosmeceutical and nutraceutical applications in collaboration, as partner, with the spin-off company BioSEArch srl. She has been involved in several Italian and EU projects focusing on drug discovery from marine microalgae. She is in the scientific board of the European Society for Marine Biotechnology.

Team of local trainers

Dr. Louis Hadjioannou, Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Centre - Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute

Louis is a biologist specializing in marine biodiversity/ecology of Cyprus and the Mediterranean with expertise on the effects of natural and anthropogenic disturbances in priority habitats (e.g. reefs, submerged caves, Posidonia meadows) and vulnerable species (e.g. corals, elasmobranchs, monk seals). He also has experience in monitoring of marine protected areas (MPAs), invasive species and artificial reefs through underwater visual and remote sensing techniques, as well as investigating the effects of fisheries (e.g., bycatch) on the marine environment. He participates in a number of projects on the aforementioned subjects including three COST actions (CA17122, ALIEN-CSI; CA19107, SEA-UNICORN; CA20102, MAF-WORLD).

Dr. Vassilis Papadopoulos, Head of Marine Environment and Aquaculture Division, Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, Cyprus

He is the Head of Meneou Marine Aquaculture Research Station (MeMARS). MeMARS study a number of marine species, considered as good candidates for aquaculture. The research at MeMARS aims at assessing the biological and physiological capacity of the species leading to produce technical protocols and scientific articles for broodstock management, larval rearing, mass production of fry and grow out.

Mr Kyriakos Masonou, JA Cyprus

His main interests include how new technologies interact with education and finance as well as how society reacts to/adopts them. In the past years, he engaged in various entrepreneurial educational activities. Kyriacos joined the team of Junior Achievement Cyprus in January 2021, six months after getting his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

International team and online experts - Ocean4Biotech

Ocean4Biotech is a network with **more than 140 experts** in blue biotechnology from institutions all over the world during dedicated one-to-one sessions to provide you and your team **the necessary support during the preparation of your project**. These institutions can also act as hosts for STSM projects deriving from the intensive week.

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AGENDA

Hybrid Training School, an Ocean of Opportunities in the Blue Biotechnology sector: Seagrass biotechnology and biomaterials as case-studies |
Workshop for Working Group 3&5: Communication Skills for scaling-up processes

Monday 2

- Why are we here? Ocean4Biotech – the framework
- Blue biotechnology challenges and opportunities
- From biodiscovery to biomaterials
- Idea wrapping
- How to pitch your ideas?

Tuesday 3

- From biodiscovery to biomaterials
- Scaling up your idea
- Ideation to start-up in the blue biotechnology
- Components of a Business Model Canvas in blue biotechnology
- Coaching group

Wednesday 4

- Business Model Canvas finalization
- IP issues in the blue biotechnology sector
- Slide-deck presentation essentials
- Slide-deck presentation
- Coaching group

Thursday 5

- How to pitch your ideas?
- Slide-deck presentation
- One-to-one coaching
- Informal meeting with judges
- Coaching group

WG3 and WG5 Workshop

Friday 6

- Pitching practice
- Slide-deck presentation (last chance)
- Pitch again!
- International business panel

WG3 and WG5 Workshop

Schedule

	Monday 2/5 Limassol	Tuesday 3/5 Larnaka	Wednesday 4/5 Limassol	Thursday 5/5 Limassol	Friday 6/5 Limassol
Place	**CUT**	**Meneou Research Station**	**CUT**	**CUT – WG3 & WG5 WORKSHOP CUT**	
9:00 - 10:30	**Why are we here? Ocean4Biotech – the framework** Aims, goals, tour de table, agenda, Criteria for slide-deck presentation ❑ Dr. Marlen Vasquez, CUT ❑ Dr. Ana Rotter, NIB	**From biodiscovery to biomaterials** Seagrass as a case study ❑ Dr. Louis Hadjioannou, CMMI ❑ Dr. Arita Dubnika, RTU ❑ Online guest trainers	**Business Model Canvas finalization** ❑ Prof. Robert Marks, BGU	**How to pitch your ideas?** ❑ Dr. Ana Rotter, NIB	**Pitching practice Group work** ❑ Dr. Ana Rotter, NIB
Break				**Break**	
11:00 - 12:30	**Blue biotechnology challenges and opportunities** Legislation, SDG, RRI Challenges ❑ Ms. Xenia Schneider, XPRO Consulting ❑ Online guest trainers	**Scaling up your idea** Meneou Research Station ❑ Dr. Vassilis Papadopoulos, DFMR ❑ Online guest trainers	**IP issues in the blue biotechnology sector** ❑ Mrs Kristine Capase-Jastrezembska ❑ Online guest trainers	**Slide-deck presentation** Group work ❑ Dr. Arita Dubnika, RTU ❑ Dr. Marlen Vasquez, CUT ❑ Dr. Ana Rotter, NIB	**Slide-deck presentation (last chance)** Group work ❑ Dr. Arita Dubnika, RTU ❑ Dr. Marlen Vasquez, CUT ❑ Dr. Ana Rotter, NIB
Lunch				**Lunch**	
13:30 - 15:00	**From biodiscovery to biomaterials** Seagrass as a case study ❑ Dr. Ioannis Vyrides, CUT ❑ Online guest trainers	**CMMI** **Ideation to start-up in the blue biotechnology** What does it take to be an entrepreneur in the biotech sector? ❑ Prof. Robert Marks, BGU ❑ Dr. Giovanna Romano, SZN	**Slide-deck presentation essentials** Group work ❑ Prof. Robert Marks, BGU ❑ Dr. Arita Dubnika, RTU	**One-to-one coaching** Group work	**Pitch again!** Group work ❑ Dr. Ana Rotter, NIB
Break				**Break**	
15:30 - 17:00	**Idea wrapping** Group work ❑ Mr. Kyriakos Masonou, JA Cyprus ❑ Dr. Arita Dubnika, RTU ❑ Dr. Marlen Vasquez, CUT ❑ Dr. Ana Rotter, NIB	**Components of a Business Model Canvas in blue biotechnology** ❑ Prof. Robert Marks, BGU	**Slide-deck presentation** Group work ❑ Dr. Arita Dubnika, RTU ❑ Dr. Marlen Vasquez, CUT ❑ Dr. Ana Rotter, NIB	**Informal meeting with judges**	**International business panel** Wrap-up and future activities, STSM
Social activities (optional)				**Social activities (optional)**	
19:00 - 21:00	**How to pitch your ideas?** One to one 10-min slots Visit the Medieval Castle in Limassol Center	**Coaching group** Enjoy Kiti village	**Coaching group** Local varieties of wines, cheeses and charcuteries degustation	**Coaching group** Meze up	

More info

The overall aim of Ocean4Biotech is to bring together experts in the field of marine biotechnology, to provide a platform for sharing experience, knowledge and technologies and to design a roadmap for a more efficient and rapid development of marine biotechnology research in Europe and beyond.

https://www.ocean4biotech.eu/
https://www.ocean4biotech.eu/who-we-are/
Contact: info@ocean4biotech.eu

Seagrass meadows and their biotechnological potential
An introduction to microbial biofilms

Limassol - Cyprus