



Baltic MUPPETS



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From Interreg to I3 – Mussel farming in the Baltic

Angela Schultz-Zehden, Managing-Director
SUBMARINER Network, 15 December 2025



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Together we improve blue environment and economy

The Network is a not-for-profit EEIG for actors and initiatives across the Baltic Sea Region and beyond whom promote innovative approaches to the sustainable use of marine resources.

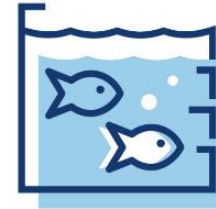
Our Solutions



**Bivalve cultivation,
processing & products**



**Algae cultivation,
processing & products**



Fisheries & Aquaculture



Ocean multi-use



**Maritime spatial
planning**



Marine protected areas



Ocean governance

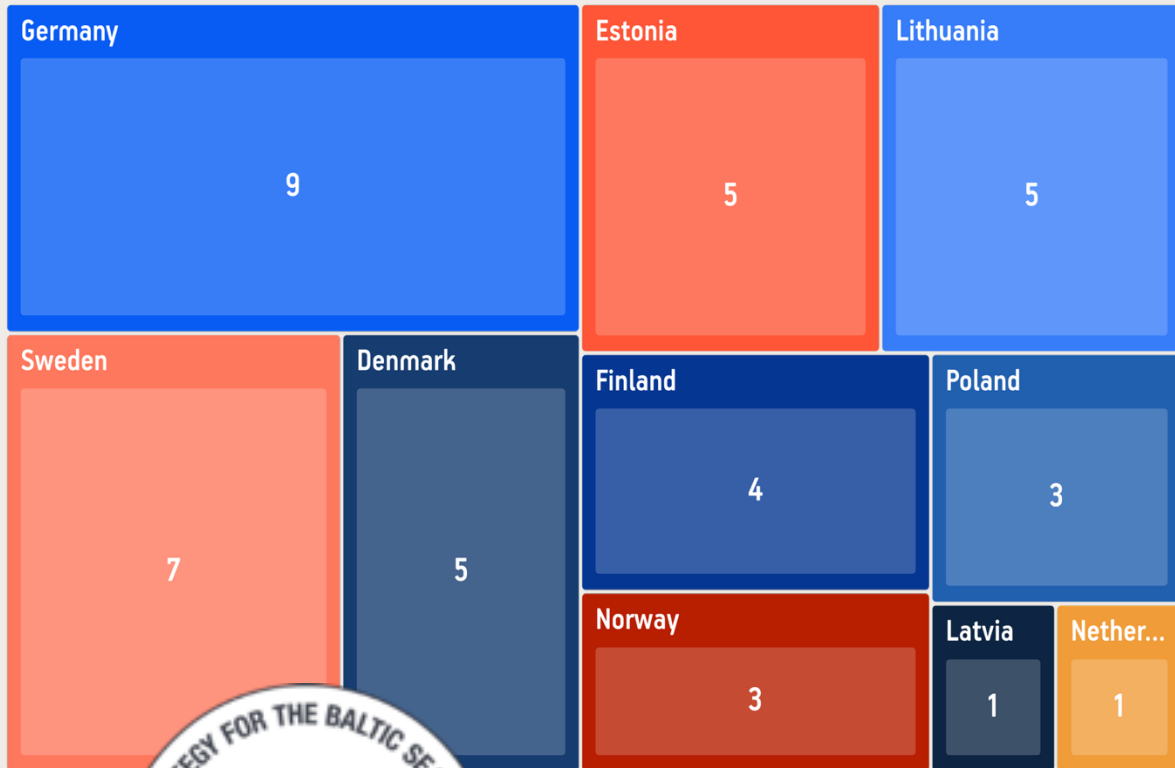


Business support



Education & upskilling

SUBMARINER NETWORK



80+ Start-ups/
SMEs

200+
Institutional
Partners

1500+
Individual
Experts

80+
Mentors/
Coaches

30+
Associate
Members

15
Full
Members

The Baltic Blue Bioeconomy Hub

Services in Projects

- + Project coordination and communication
- + Stakeholder mapping, analysis and engagement
- + Organisation and facilitation of conferences, workshops and webinars
- + Development of synthesis papers and roadmaps
- + Post-project knowledge repository and transfer

Services for SUBMARINER Members

- + Promotion of members' interests
- + Matchmaking and project/proposal development
- + Access to a searchable database of 10,000 individuals

Services for Companies

- + Accelerator support for spin-offs, start-ups, and SMEs
- + Advocacy for company and product innovations
- + Knowledge and talent brokerage
- + SEED funding opportunities

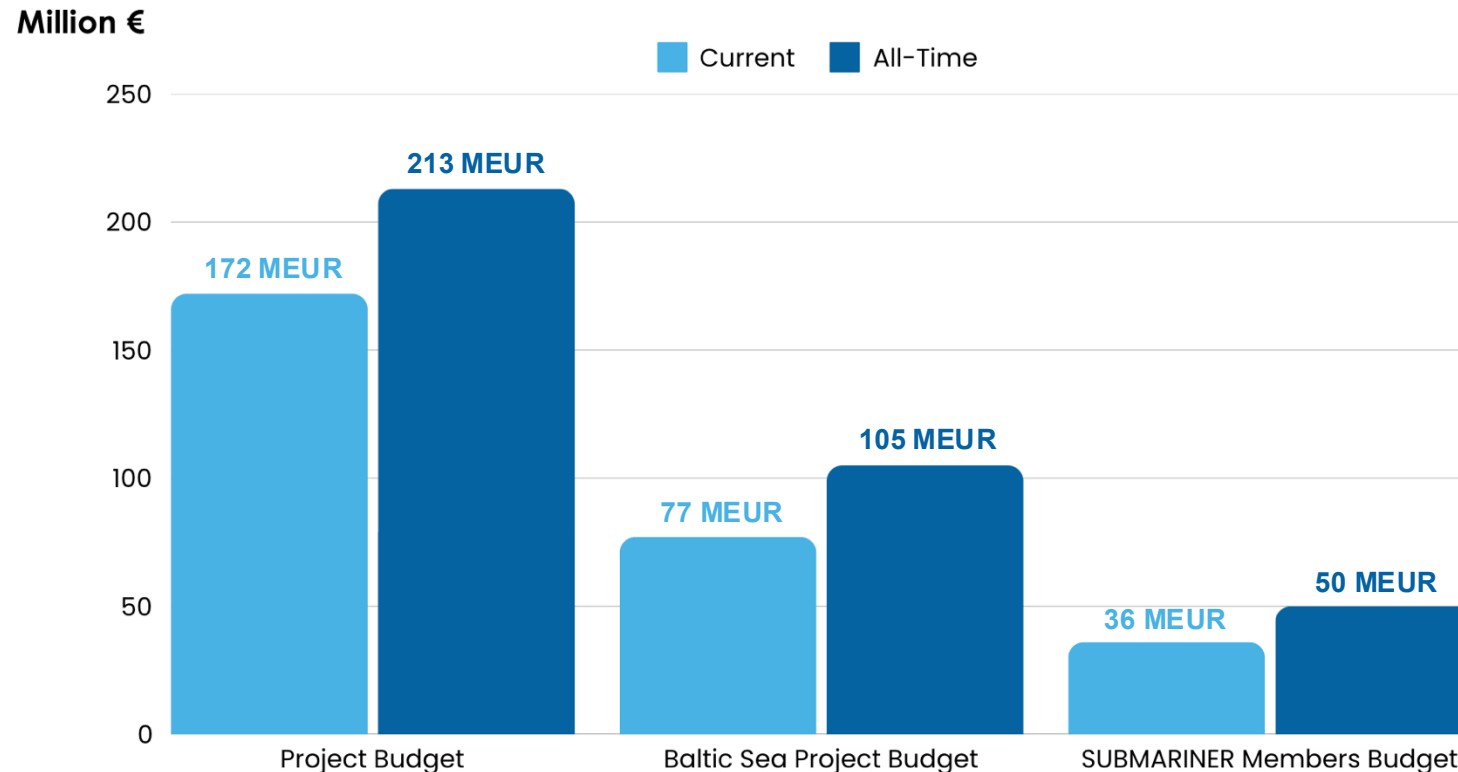


More than 54 Projects

Various EU Funding Sources

- Horizon Mission 'Restore our Oceans and Waters'
- Horizon Cluster 6
- INTERREG
- EMFAF
- DG MARE Direct Funding
- Interregional Innovation Investment Facility (I3)
- Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP)
- Circular Bio-Based Joint Undertaking (CBE JU)
- ERASMUS+
- DG MARE Service Contracts
- National Ministries
- Philanthropic Foundations

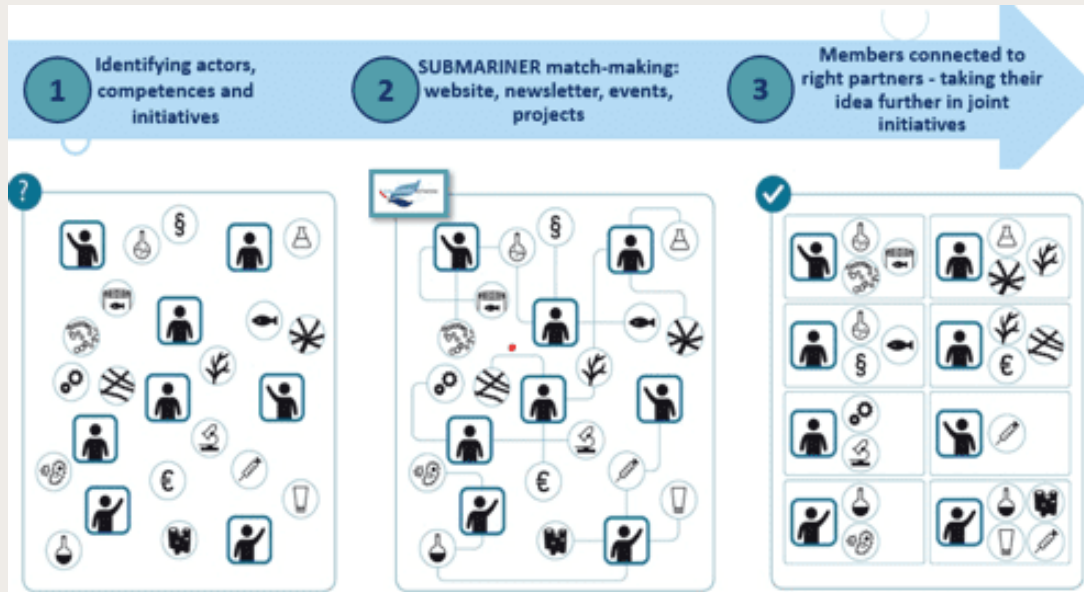
'What we appreciate is the unique opportunity to participate in international projects and create a better BLUE future together with excellent experts and organizations from all over Europe'
- Iwona Rakowska, Gdynia Maritime University



We have had a total of **213 million Euros** from all projects (54), **172 million Euros** being the budget in current ones (34).

State of Play: Jan 25

Projects 2016-2021



- No strategic funding
- 100.000 € annual member fees
- 20 transnational projects
- 41 million € total
- 30 million € Baltic



Projects 2022-2029

Business Development



Education/Skills



Science-Based Policy



Algae Study



NESBp



Demonstrators



Join our Groups on BlueBioMatch!



WaveMakers • Early Careers Exchange & Talent Hub

110 members



Mussels Community

74 members



Algae Community

270 members



Women in the Blue Economy

94 members



Ocean Art & Science Collective

67 members



Aquaculture Community

133 members



Ocean Multi Use Hub

19 members



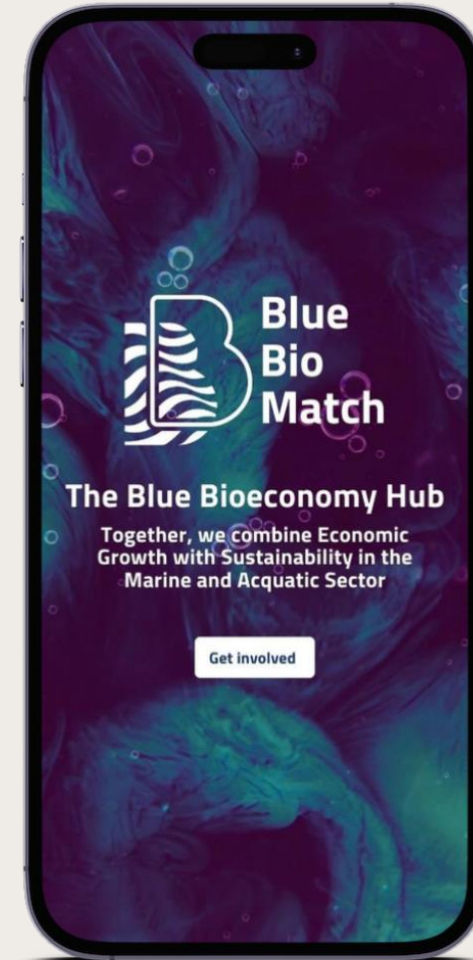
Sustainable Fisheries Community

38 members



MPA Community Network

86 members



<https://www.bluebiomatch.eu>

Actions 2020+

ACTION 1 – GET PILOTS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

- + Regional / National Roundtables
- + Develop comprehensive regional plans
- + Identify & monitor sites based on common parameters
- + Establish large-scale demonstration farms/plants
- + Encourage and coordinate cooperative structures
- + Cross-cutting plans: Biodiversity, Ecosystem, Climate

ACTION 3 – THE BLUE ON LAND

- + Work with Regions
- + Consumer Awareness
- + Ocean Literacy & Citizen Science
- + Education & Skills Development
- + Waste Treatment, Marine Litter, Tourism, Food & Feed

ACTION 2 – INCREASE COMPANY INVOLVEMENT

- + Address need for a company networking platform
- + Continue and expand company specific services:
 - ▶ Accelerator / match-making
 - ▶ Co-creation & ideation
 - ▶ Technology development & transfer
 - ▶ Ecosystem Valuation

ACTION 4 – WORKING GROUPS

- + Algae
- + **Mussels**
- + Sustainable Fish
- + Multi-Use
- + Ocean Literacy, Education & Skills
- + Mentors' Forum

Baltic Blue Growth 2016-2019



Baltic Blue Growth

Objective: "Advance mussel farming in the Baltic Sea from experimental to full-scale to improve the water quality and create blue growth in the feed industry"

- Initiation of full-scale mussel farming in the Baltic Sea / low saline part
- Mussel growth, investments and work hours per harvest was measured => Site specific production manuals
- Scientific and policy discussion about mussel farms as a tool to mitigate eutrophication



SUBMARINER Mussels Working Group

Projects:

- ❖ BBG
- ❖ Optimus (BONUS)
- ❖ Rich Waters (LIFE)
- ❖ Aqua Vitae (Horizon)
- ❖ SNOOP (Formas, SE)
- ❖ MuMiPro (Innovation DK)
- ❖ Kombinierte marine Aquakultur (EMFF, DE)
- ❖ BalticSeaFeed (SI, SE)



SUBMARINER Network Mussels Working Group

Teleconference #5

26 March 2020

Draft Minutes (Version 27/03/2020)

Participants
SUBMARINER Network – Angela Schultz-Zehden, Lisa Simone de Grunt University of Tartu: Jonne Kotta, Robert Aps Orbicon: Per Dolmer East Region Aquaculture Centre: Jason Bailey Oceanbasis / CRM: Peter Krost Kalmar Municipality: Anders Almqvist Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology: Juris Aigars Linnaeus University: Catherine Legrand EUCC: Theresa Horn Dansk Akvakultur: Lisbeth Plessner IOW: Lukas Ritzenhofen Ecopelag: Martin Karlsson, Martin Reutgard Estonia: Relika Williams, David Williams
Updates from members WG
week for a new test farm in

Joint Policy Brief



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Baltic MUPPETS

The overall objective of **Baltic MUssel Products for PET-foodS** is to: **develop, scale and complete value chains for mussel-based pet food products**. The expected results are to:

1. Advance and scale submerged mussel farming and harvesting techniques.
2. Develop new innovative sustainable market products –i.e., feed for cats, dogs and/or ornamental fish– from small Baltic mussels.
3. Develop business models for EU mussels and side-streams to support a circular economy..
4. Mobilize new start-ups and SMEs to enter the market.

13 Interregional
Innovation
Investment
Instrument



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Interreg

vs

I3

The core projects are the main tool to deliver the change Interreg Baltic Sea Region aims at. All core projects are requested to **prepare, pilot and transfer practical and durable solutions** to the challenges they choose to tackle. These challenges must correspond to one of the Programme objectives.

The main results of the core project are **increased capacities of the target groups** to deal with the defined challenges. The target groups are **organisations that have competences to influence the challenge and are interested in the solutions**.

Hence, reaching out to the target groups and involving them in the preparation of the solution, piloting and transfer is crucial for the success of the core projects.

Expected impact at the closure of the project (examples):

- Innovative technologies **tested and adopted** by companies and public administration
- **Innovative solutions deployed improving businesses** confidence, competences and means to digitalise and grow
- Uptake of **technologically/economically reliable and viable solutions on the market**
- **Deployment of new green and digital technologies** fostering the growth of Europe's manufacturing sector
- **Innovative technologies adopted by SMEs**



Key differences

Proof of concept
and gap
identification


Implementation

	Baltic Blue Growth	Baltic MUPPETS
Main focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy discussion • Creating the business case 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scaling up • Validating business models
End TRL	6	Commercial (9)
Budget	€4 600 000	€ 7 341 525
Long term investments		Infrastructure and equipment.
Partner constellation	8 authorities, 5 research institutions, 2 SME, 3 other (18 total)	1 authority, 2 research institutions, 6 SMEs, 4 other (13 total)
Main outputs	Factsheets, stakeholder meetings, policy recommendations.	Commercial products, technology development supporting the industry

Background and business
case for I3 application



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The I3 programme helped the partners take the business case from Baltic Blue Growth and scale up to commercially viable offers.

It also helped bridge the financial gap and not lose momentum in a critical scale-up phase.



Thank you!

Angela Schultz-Zehden
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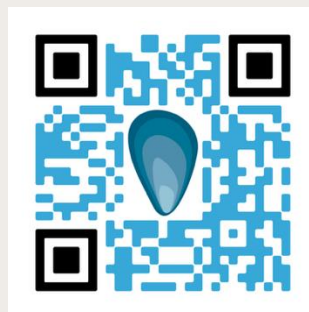


Baltic MUPPETS

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Psssst... Baltic MUPPETS
has its final conference in Kiel
10th of March!

Register using the QR-code.



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