

MARINNONET Newsletter

Welcome to our official third newsletter!

A summary of the project's key activities and milestones, along with an overview of [upcoming events, calls, and news of interest](#) in Blue Biotechnology across the Atlantic Area.

About the project

MARINNONET is entering its final phase as the [benchmark ecosystem for technology transfer and innovation](#) within the Atlantic Area's Blue Biotechnology sector. The network has successfully bridged the gap between scientific research and the market through a practical 'quadruple helix' model.

The impactful approach was recognized by the European Commission with the prestigious [Atlantic Project Award 2025](#) (*Coastal Resilience and Healthy Oceans*). Additionally, at the Interregional Annual Event, our model was highlighted as an outstanding example of industrial capitalization through its demonstrative pilot projects.



Photo courtesy of the Interregional Atlantic Area Annual Event & Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference

[Learn more](#)



Photos courtesy of Pilot Projects (ULVACEL by ULPGC-BEA)

The three priority areas

MARINNONET focuses on three main priority areas:

1. Innovations for an efficient, sustainable, and resilient [aquaculture](#).
2. Omics and [observation](#) technologies for preserving marine biodiversity and restore ocean health.
3. Marine-derived products for [industrial applications](#).

[Learn more](#)

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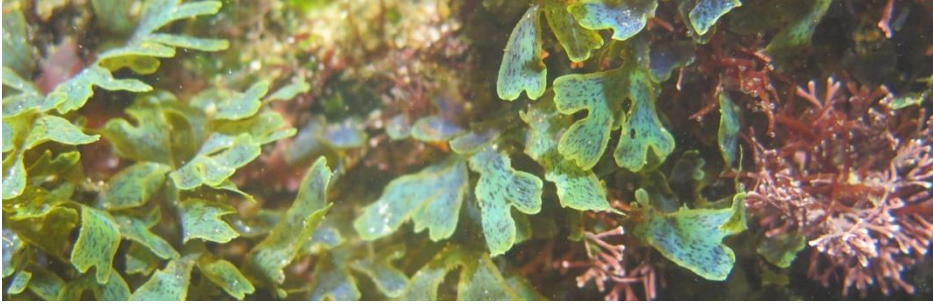
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Turning Atlantic challenges into commercial reality



Delivering solutions: The 2026 Pilot Projects

Bridging the gap between lab research and maritime markets

Building on the momentum of our initial calls, MARINNONET launched its second round of Pilot Projects in January 2026. Following a rigorous evaluation of eight competitive proposals, seven strategic new pilots were selected for implementation. Operating within the TRL 3-7 range across our priority areas (aquaculture, omics, and industrial products), these industrial and academic R&D&I activities reinforce transnational collaboration by pairing consortium partners directly with maritime companies across the Atlantic Area.

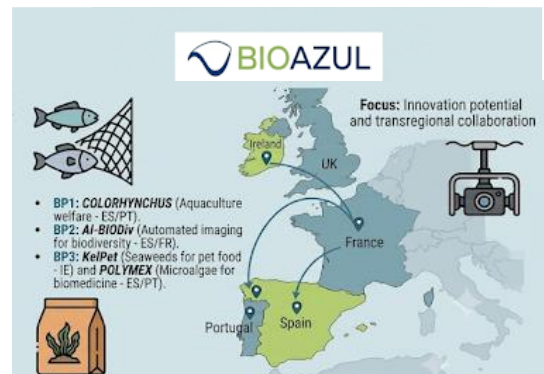
[Read more](#)



Ensuring the long-term viability of marine biotechnology solutions

Moving beyond research, MARINNONET is committed to bringing pilot innovations to the marketplace. In early 2026, the network advanced its strategic exploitation plans, working closely to identify high-potential results, protect IP, and design business models that facilitate technology transfer. By bridging the gap between laboratories and industry, this framework ensures our technical outputs actively support the regional economy and drive long-term investment in Atlantic blue biotechnology.

[Read more](#)



Turning results into impact for our selected exploitation plans

Following the exploitation sessions with BioAzul, 4 strategic pilot projects have been selected to develop dedicated business plans based on their innovation potential and Atlantic Area cooperation:

- **BP1: COLORHYNCHUS** (Aquaculture welfare – ES/PT)
- **BP2: AI-BIODiv** (Automated imaging for biodiversity – ES/FR)
- **BP3: KelPet** (Seaweeds for pet food – IE) and **POLYMEX** (Microalgae for biomedicine – ES/PT)

Success stories & open innovation (InvestigaFest 2026)

Bringing laboratory science to the industrial market



Photo courtesy of FPCT-ULPGC

MARINNONET demonstrated its market impact at **InvestigaFest 2026** (over 150 professionals), highlighting the successful collaboration between BEA-ULPGC and the start-up **MacroCarbon** for the industrial cultivation of *Sargassum*. In tandem, excellent progress is being made on the first **ULVACEL** pilot project with **CIM-UVigo**, exploring open-water *Ulva* cultivation in Galicia and Gran Canaria to showcase how blue biotechnology can scale into real industrial and circular economy solutions.

New Project feature – Animal welfare in aquaculture

COLORYNCHUS Project: Practical and non-invasive tools for the aquaculture sector



Photo courtesy of ITACyL

Led by the **PhystoFish Research Group (CIM-UVigo)** in collaboration with **ITACyL**, **UPV/EHU**, and **Bio1OneHealth**, the **COLORYNCHUS** project is developing quick, non-invasive ways to assess chronic stress in rainbow trout. By evaluating **mucus quality, skin coloration, and fish behaviour**, the study aims to provide producers with practical tools—like photographic guides and scorecards—to detect stress early on-farm and vastly improve welfare decision-making.

[Read more](#)

The major global milestone – Our pilot projects booklet is out now!

Innovating for a sustainable and resilient Blue Biotechnology in the Atlantic Area

Our official portfolio has officially launched! We have released the MARINNONET Pilot Projects Booklet, an exclusive catalogue showcasing 16 transregional pilot projects (TRL 4-6) developed through close cooperation between leading scientific partners and local industry innovators across the Atlantic Area.

This document serves as a window into the future of the blue bioeconomy. Within its pages, you can explore everything from sustainable aquaculture feeds to bio-based materials and advanced environmental monitoring tools. We invite you to discover how cross-border cooperation is driving real, commercial solutions.

[Download](#)



2026 Network impact & next steps

Consolidating our community and looking to the future

3rd Innovation Regional Stakeholders Forums

Connecting the Atlantic Area



The **3rd Innovation Regional Stakeholders Forums** kicked off in May with a successful event in **Porto**, co-organised by the 3B's Research Group, BLUEBIO ALLIANCE, and CIM-Uvigo. These forums serve as key platforms for connecting laboratories and businesses, focusing on algae resource utilisation and exploring new synergies, such as those with *BIOCHAINS Atlantic*. This open innovation journey will continue through to October, concluding in Brest, and driving technology transfer across the entire Atlantic Area.

MARINNONET at the Global Sustainable Islands Summit 2026

Advancing the blue bio economy in island territories



Photo courtesy of consortium partners ULPGC-BEA

Milestones towards the project closure

Consolidating progress and aligning our final steps



Photo courtesy of consortium partners

The MARINNONET Project is entering its final phase, highlighted by two crucial milestones:

The **5th Project Progress Meeting (27th May 2026)**: The consortium gathered in Guimarães, Portugal, to review the 30-month project recap, finalise derivable indicators, and align the upcoming sustainability roadmap.

The **Final Project event (September 2026)**: This major international conference marks the culmination of the 36-month journey. It will bring together policy-makers, industry leaders, and scientific networks to secure the community's long-term sustainability beyond the Project's formal closure.

[Read more](#)

In April 2026, MARINNONET expanded its transnational outreach by actively participating in the **Global Sustainable Islands Summit 2026**. This international forum provided an exceptional platform to showcase how marine biotechnology can drive resilience, sustainability, and economic diversification in island ecosystems. Our representatives shared the network's **open innovation methodologies and collaborative models**, positioning MARINNONET as a key benchmark for sustainable maritime governance and cross-border cooperation on a global scale.

[Read more](#)

Blue biotech agenda & resources

Global events and upcoming dates of interest in 2026

To keep our community connected with the wider blue bioeconomy ecosystem, here are the key international events and training initiatives scheduled for the upcoming months:

Upcoming dates and events

JUNE

16th-18th 19th [International Symposium on Oceanography of the Bay of Biscay](#) - Donostia - San Sebastian, Spain

16th-18th [Seagriculture EU 2026](#) – Gothenburg, Sweden

25th – 27th [World Congress on Aquaculture, Fisheries & Marine Biology \(WAC 2026\)](#) – Barcelona, Spain

SEPTEMBER

[MARINNONET Final Project event.](#)
29th - 01st [BIOSPAIN 2026](#) - Bilbao, Spain

OCTOBER

6th - 8th [Sea Tech Week](#) - Brest, France.

Relevant information

[Blue Bio Techpreneurs – Skills, Hackathons & Networking](#)

[EU Blue Economy Observatory](#)

[Academic & Training Programmes in Marine Biotech](#)

Upcoming funding & opportunities

Strategic calls and research grants currently open

Campus Crea Research Mobility Grants:

Funding is available for research mobility specifically tailored for PhD programmes aligned with the Campus Crea framework.

Deadline: 17th June 2026

Predocctoral Research Contracts (FPI 2025):

Applications are officially open for predoctoral research training grants associated with 'Knowledge Generation Projects'.

Deadline: 25th June 2026

Looking for international funding? The OPI Research Area provides comprehensive assistance for Horizon Europe, INTERREG, and other international programmes – guiding you from your initial Project proposal right through to final implementation. Get in touch at opi@uvigo.gal

Want to know more about MARINNONET?

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