

ECCENTRIC NEWSLETTER #1

Welcome to the First ECCENTRIC Newsletter - Building Innovation Partnerships in the Adriatic Blue Economy

ECCENTRIC is an Interreg Italy–Croatia project that helps SMEs from the blue economy work together with research organisations to develop new ideas, solve challenges and become more innovative. In this edition, you will learn about the launch of the pilot phase, the publication of SME BRIEFS and the start of the matchmaking process connecting SMEs with research organisations.

We invite you to follow our journey and discover new opportunities for collaboration and innovation.



Launch of the Pilot Phase

The ECCENTRIC project has officially entered the pilot implementation phase. The initiative supports cooperation between SMEs and research organisations in the blue economy sectors, facilitating innovation, knowledge transfer and the development of new solutions.



How were the SME BRIEFS developed?

Before launching the pilot phase, the ECCENTRIC partnership developed three Strategic Roadmaps covering the key sectors of the blue economy:

[Development of Strategic Roadmaps : Download](#)

 **Marine Energy Roadmap - Future opportunities in offshore wind, marine solar energy and hydrogen technologies**  [Download Roadmap](#)

 **Safety & Surveillance Roadmap - Innovative solutions for maritime safety, monitoring, cybersecurity and AI-based surveillance**  [Download Roadmap](#)

 **Infrastructure Roadmap - Smart ports, sustainable maritime infrastructure and digital transformation**  [Download Roadmap](#)



The roadmaps were developed through:

- ✓ Interviews with SMEs and stakeholders
- ✓ Analysis of technological and market trends
- ✓ Workshops and seminars organised across Italy and Croatia

More than 75 SMEs, research organisations, public bodies and sector experts contributed to identifying future technological trends, investment opportunities and innovation priorities for the Adriatic blue economy. The results of this work formed the basis for the development of SME BRIEFS and the pilot activities currently being implemented.



Publication of SME BRIEFS

The selected SME BRIEFS have been published on the [ECCENTRIC Landing page](#). The BRIEFS present real innovation challenges from companies operating in Marine Energies, Maritime Surveillance & Security and Marine Infrastructure sectors.



Research organisations are invited to review the challenges and identify opportunities for collaboration with SMEs through the ECCENTRIC matchmaking process.



Matchmaking Between SMEs and Research Organisations

Following the publication of the BRIEFS, ECCENTRIC launched matchmaking phase. This activity connects SMEs with research organisations capable of addressing their technological and innovation needs. Bilateral discussions and collaborative planning activities help establish future pilot collaborations.



Pilot Activities



Next steps :

- Completion of matchmaking activities
- Selection of SME–Research Organisation collaborations
- Pilot implementation
- AI tool validation
- Capitalisation and transfer activities

Pilot activities are now being prepared and implemented across the partnership. The next phase includes collaboration between SMEs and research organisations, testing of innovative approaches, AI tool validation and support activities designed to strengthen innovation capacity within the blue economy ecosystem.

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